PUNJAB ADMINISTRATION REPORT

1908-1909

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

PUNJAB AND ITS DEPENDENCIES

FOR

1908-1909.

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REPORT

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1908-09.

PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

(The "year" throughout this report is not inavriably the financial year ending 31st March 1909. At the heading of each chapter, with the exception of chapter I, a reference is given to the departmental reports which contain details of the subjects dealt with. The "year" of the present report is for each such subject the year mentioned in the title of the departmental report so referred to. In general it may be said that the "year" in chapters I, IV, V, VII, VIII and IX means the financial year ending 31st March 1909, in chapter II it is the revenue year ending 30th September 1908, and in chapters III and VI it is the calendar year ending 31st December 1908.

The Administration Report for 1901-02 was a decennial report, and as such contained many sections of permanent interest to which reference may be necessary in order to understand the working of the Administration; under the orders of the Government of India these sections are not repeated each year, but a reference is given to them in their place in the several chapters of part II of this report.

Except where otherwise stated, the Punjab in this report refers to the Punjab as at present constituted.)

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

1. Sir Thomas Gordon Walker, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., held charge of the office of Lieutenant-Governor from the 23rd of January 1908 to the 25th of May 1908, on the forenoon of which date he was relieved by Sir Louis William Dane, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., and retired from the service. Personnel of the Administration.

RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES.

2. The most important events of the year were the formal installation of Nawab Ahmad Ali Khan of Máler Kotla, of Raja Bhim Sen of Suket, and of Sardar Ravi Sher Singh of Kalsia; and the marriage of Raja Bhim Sen of Suket to a niece of the Raja of Sirmúr. The administration of the States proceeded smoothly, except in Mandi, where there was friction between the people and the Darbar. Political.

Administration of the Land.

Land revenue.

3. The year 1907-08 was one of scarcity, not actually amounting to famine. The most serious feature of the year was the high level of prices, due in great part to the drain of food-stuffs to the famine-stricken tracts of other provinces. During the year in question practically no rain fell except for a fortnight in July and three weeks in August. The total area matured was only 71 per cent. of the quinquennial average; the only crops which survived the drought were cane and cotton in the autumn and barley in the spring.

It was found necessary to suspend 40¾ lakhs, or practically one-fifth of the fixed demand, while 22¼ lakhs were advanced to cultivators. The outstanding balances of land revenue and advances to cultivators at the end of the year amounted to nearly 98 lakhs.

Land Alienation Act.

4. The Land Alienation Act has now stood the test of a year of severe scarcity; and there is nothing to show that it has caused any undue contraction of credit or has operated to prevent the agriculturist from successfully tiding over the period of temporary distress. The prediction that the limitation of the market for land would prejudicially affect land values has been falsified. Agricultural land probably never fetched such high prices as those now ruling.

With regard to the position of members of agricultural tribes, whom the Act is specially designed to protect, an analysis of the results proves that they have more than held their own in the past year in the matter both of sales and of mortgages, and it is abundantly clear that the Act is producing the effect which it was designed to have in preventing the land from passing from their hands. It is a feature of the history of the Act that since the year after its passing the area redeemed has steadily increased, and now for the fourth year in succession it has exceeded the area mortgaged. Moreover, the peasant is undoubtedly restricting his borrowing and the habits of extravagance which under a system of unlimited credit necessitated recourse to the money lender.

Surveys.

5. Good progress was made with the topographical survey of Dera Gházi Khan and with the traverse of the Bari Doab tract. The demarcation of permanent boundaries along the rivers has conferred a new sense of security on the owners of riverain lands and met with the approbation of the people affected thereby.

Settlements.

6. The land revenue settlement of Miánwáli was brought to a close. Settlement operations were in progress in six other districts, *viz.*, Gurgaon, Karnál, Rohtak, Hissar, Delhi and Gurdáspur.

Land records.

7. There has been a steady improvement in the quality of the land-record work, and the peasant land-owners of the province rightly show great confidence in the entries made, which they find add to the security of their title and the value of their land. The figures for mutations have risen considerably. The maintenance of the record of rights tends to become the principal function of the subordinate revenue staff of the Province.

8. The actual work of colonization in existing colonies has now come to a close as practically all the allottable area has been allotted. The work that now remains is the improvement of communications and of sanitation and the planting of trees. This work proceeds apace. Colony towns have been or are being provided with a good system of sanitation and drainage. The arboricultural work also which has been done by the people under the guidance of the Colonization Officers has been wonderfully successful. Colonies.

In spite of the adverse character of the season, the absence of plague and the prevalence of good prices have made the past year a fairly prosperous one for all the colonies. Improvement in the distribution of water has also contributed in large measure to this result.

The Chenab colony exhibits great prosperity, comfort and content, from which a feeling of gratitude to Government for the extraordinary benefits its colonization scheme has conferred on these fortunate individuals in the short space of 15 years is not entirely absent. The Jhelum colony appears to be on the high road to prosperity after a series of heavy misfortunes, due chiefly to virulent epidemics of plague; but a bumper wheat crop and high prices have gone far to compensate for the disasters of past years. The continued success of horse-breeding, the special feature of this colony, is remarkable. The Chunián colony benefited by high prices for its crops, and the Jhang colony had a fair year.

PROTECTION.

9. A spirit of lawlessness marked the earlier part of 1908, chiefly in the Central Punjab. Many were stirred to crime, especially in the towns, by impending famine and the aftermath of political unrest. Excellent autumn rains, however, averted famine, and the ravages of malaria helped to reduce the growing volume of crime. Even so, the increase in all crimes against the person has been remarkable. Police and criminal justice.

The police have come well out of a trying ordeal, upholding their reputation for discipline, courage and ability to maintain law and order.

10. As crime increased, the number of convict admissions and of jail offences rose. Chiefly owing to quinine prophylaxis, the jails were singularly free from malaria, and the health of the jail population on the whole was good. Prisons.

To encourage industry and good conduct with the hope of substantial reward, a new system is being introduced in which the units of remission are days instead of marks. As regards segregation, judicial lock-ups are now being converted into subsidiary jails, whereby short term prisoners are kept apart from the more serious prisoners.

The number of convictions of juvenile offenders is increasing, and the daily average strength of the Reformatory School, Delhi, rose by over 52 per cent.

11. The number of institutions of civil suits rose by over 25,000, and despite vigorous efforts by the judiciary to dispose of them, the pending file increased. As creditors knew that debtors could not pay, there were fewer applications for execution of decrees presented than during the previous year. Civil justice.

Among the measures of reform engaging public attention may be mentioned the proposed establishment of *Panchayat* courts for the disposal of petty civil suits.

Registration.

12. There was a very marked increase in the number of documents compulsorily presented for registration, and the persistent decrease in optional registrations has ceased. In both cases the reason is to be sought in the hard times which compelled so many of the peasantry to sell or mortgage their lands.

Local Self-Government.

13. The year was not marked by any startling developments in the working of district boards. It might have been expected that a year immediately preceding the birth of great political changes would have been marked by a quickening of public interest in the working and constitution of all public bodies. But the members of a district board do not rub shoulders sufficiently to enable the elements of personal rivalry or political sympathy to operate very strongly. At the same time the activities of the board as a whole do not touch the individual so closely as those of a municipal committee, whose powers of interference in the more intimate affairs of life are necessarily greater. This fact largely accounts for the want of interest that still shows itself in the matter of elections to district boards. Ordinarily speaking, candidates and voters are equally apathetic. An attempt to rouse the interest of members in their duties is being made by the Local Government, which recently enjoined that an ordinary meeting of each district board and local board should be held as a rule not less than once every two months; and the devolution of matters of detail to sub-committees is being encouraged.

Municipal affairs afford a picture only a little less dark. Except in the larger municipalities, there is seldom any keenness over elections, and a seat filled by appointment is much more coveted than one filled by election. The most serious feature in the history of the public health of towns in the year 1908-09 was the terrible outbreak of malaria that followed on the heavy monsoon of 1908. Several municipalities started a system of free distribution of quinine to combat this outbreak, and they later received grants from provincial revenues to the extent of their actual expenditure. Owing chiefly to this epidemic and to the depression of trade, octroi, the main source of municipal revenue, decreased by $2\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs. Octroi has been brought prominently into public notice during the past year by the appointment of a committee in the United Provinces to consider the possibility of its abolition or of improving its assessment and collection, in case abolition should appear out of the question. Copies of their report have been circulated with a view to the adoption as far as possible of the improvements in the working of the tax suggested in the report. The larger question of substituting a terminal tax without refunds in place of octroi will be considered later.

Agriculture, Weather and Crops.

Operations of the Department of Agriculture.

14. The Agricultural Department in the Punjab is already beginning to make its influence felt, especially in the canal colonies, which contain the most progressive element in the rural population and in which the only existing agricultural station and seed farm are situated. The question of establishing a second station in the Punjab is still under consideration. So

far the activities of the department have mainly consisted in preparation for the opening of the Lyallpur Agricultural College, in experiments with new and improved varieties of crops, and in the introduction of agricultural machinery.

Owing to the incomplete state of the buildings, the College could not be opened in the year under review; progress was made with the recruiting and training of the staff. From the Lyallpur agricultural station important information has been obtained concerning the milling and baking qualities of Punjab wheats. It appears that the red wheats which are most suited for cultivation in the province are superior from the point of view of both miller and baker to the soft white wheats which have hitherto been in greatest demand for export. The matter is one of great importance to the Punjabi cultivator and to consumers generally.

The Veterinary Department.

15. The year has been marked by an increase in the popularity of the veterinary hospitals throughout the province. Increased attention has at the same time been paid to breeding operations and in particular to the standard and quantity of donkey stallions. This should prove of great service in improving the breeding of mules in the Punjab. In spite of some doubtful results in the Miánwáli district it is satisfactory to notice that preventive inoculation is usually attended with success, and is uniformly appreciated.

Loans to agriculturists.

16. Over 22 lakhs of rupees were advanced by the State to agriculturists for the purchase of seed and cattle and the improvement of their lands in 1907-08. These liberal advances undoubtedly helped the people to come through a time of trial much more successfully than could have been expected. Provincial revenues suffered a loss of over half a lakh on the year's transactions. The outstanding balance of principal alone was nearly 35½ lakhs at the end of the year. The existence of such a heavy debt from the agricultural population to Government cannot be viewed with entire equanimity, and endeavours are being made to realize outstanding balances with promptitude, now that better conditions obtain.

Co-operative credit societies.

17. The co-operative credit movement has been marked during 1908-09 by recovery and consolidation after the trials of a period of scarcity. There has at the same time been considerable expansion; the necessary capital for village banks is being obtained from district banks, able to attract capital at head-quarters, and from unions instituted on the Bengal model.

Prices.

18. The harvest price of wheat was 63 per cent. above normal. A shortage of wheat in the principal wheat-growing countries, and the desire of local merchants to replenish their stocks after the severe drain to other Provinces, contributed to maintain prices at a high level.

Quinquennial cattle census.

19. The periodical quinquennial cattle census was carried out in February 1909. All classes of animals, except goats, have increased. Except under the head of bullocks and cows the province is in a better position than ever before; and as regards bullocks and cows it is certain that the figures before 1894 included many old and inferior cattle, such as it would not pay now-a-days to feed.

Weather and crops.

20. The monsoon rains of 1908 were the heaviest known for the past 30 years. Some damage was caused by excessive rain, but the area sown and the autumn crops reaped were in excess of normal. An unusually dry winter and spring followed, but the soil moisture was sufficient to ensure an excellent spring harvest.

FORESTS.

Management.

21. Forty-seven square miles of the Pir Mahal Forest have been notified as reserved. In Lahore 4 forests are still under settlement. The provisions of working plans have generally been carried out. Working plans are required for 4,640 square miles, for the greater part of which no steps can be taken until it is decided what areas are required by the Canal Colonies.

The total number of forest offences committed showed a rise; the majority of the cases are compounded under the Act, but the percentage of convictions in cases taken to court was more than maintained. There were about half as many fires, and half as many acres burnt, as in the previous year.

Exploitation.

22. The total quantity of timber removed by departmental agency is now very small. The existing system is to sell trees as they stand. The rates for timber are well maintained, and the price of firewood is rising in most Divisions.

MANUFACTURES.

23. The total number of factories in the Punjab is now 264, the majority of which are cotton ginning factories. Inspections were more frequent, and greater activity than heretofore has been shown in the prosecution of offences. The sanitary conditions and arrangements for fencing were generally satisfactory. There is no doubt in many factories a systematic disregard of the rules concerning the employment of women and children, but the results are not serious.

An instructive monograph on the Wire and Tinsel Industries in the Punjab has been published.

TRADE.

Total Imports and Exports.

24. The total value of the trade of the province during the year was £26,790,000; the imports actually exceeded the exports by £5,726,000. There is a shrinkage in both exports and imports: the falling-off in the grain traffic was so great that the value of exports is lower than it has been since 1903-04.

Trans-Frontier trade.

25. In the trade with Chinese Tibet, the value of imports increased 28 per cent.; the exports are almost negligible. In the trade with Ladakh there has been a decrease of 1½ lakhs of rupees in imports, and the export figures are the lowest known for many years. The only satisfactory item is an increase in European piece-goods.

The trade with Southern and Western Afghánistán is insignificant.

Joint Stock Companies.

26. A 'boom' in Company promoting has set in which will sensibly affect in one way or another the prosperity of the Province. The paid up capital of Companies has more than doubled in eight years.

Public Works

27. Retrenchment under each head of Public Works was found necessary. The expenditure on Provincial Civil Works dropped from 19½ to 15¾ lakhs apart from expenditure on repairs. The outlay during the year was spread over all departments—Civil, Judicial, Education, Jails, Police, Medical and Agriculture. The progress made in the construction of feeder roads and in work connected with the sanitary improvement of towns in the province has been marked.

Railways.

28. How greatly the paralysis in trade has affected the Railways in India is well illustrated by the history of the North-Western Railway during the year 1908. Though it usually earns in gross receipts an average of between six and seven hundred lakhs of rupees, its total receipts during the year 1908 were estimated at not more than 550 lakhs. The backbone of its traffic is the wheat export trade from Karachi, and the great diminution in this in 1908 caused a loss on this item alone of over a hundred lakhs of rupees.

The average rate charged to passengers of all classes was just over ⅕th of a penny and the average distance travelled was about 38 miles; there have been no material fluctuations in these figures since 1884.

Irrigation.

29. All the perennial canals, with the exception of the Western Jumna and the Sirhind, show an increase in the irrigated areas, compared with the average of the previous three years. All inundation canals except the Ghaggar, where the river failed in September, and the Indus, where floods caused great damage, were equally fortunate owing to the excessive monsoon.

The total area irrigated by all the Punjab Canals,—Imperial, Provincial and Native States,—amounted to 6,749,607 acres, or almost double that of Egypt.

The gross commanded area is 18½ million acres, of which 15½ million acres are culturable. The year's operations emphasise the importance of canal irrigation in securing stable results to the zamindar under diverse climatic conditions, so that famines are rendered impossible and the farmer steadily reaps the advantage of the high prices now ruling on all produce.

Revenue and Expenditure.

30. The revenue raised in the province was 22·78 lakhs more than in the previous financial year. The figures are given in detail in section 36. The rise in profits under *Irrigation* are due to the increase of 12 per cent. in the irrigated area. Under *Stamps* the increase is mainly due to increased litigation. Under the head of *Excise* the increase is due not to

increased consumption but to competition at auctions for vend license fees. The increase under *Civil Works* is due to the inclusion this year of contributions from Local Funds formerly not shewn under Revenue. In expenditure the increase under the head *Police* is due to the reorganisation scheme and to the grant of grain compensation. The increase under *Education* is mainly due to the inclusion of provincial contributions to Local Funds, formerly not entered as expenditure; and that under *Scientific and other Minor Departments* to the development of agricultural schemes. The fall under *Forest* is due to the inclusion in 1907-08 of a large payment made to Chamba. Omitting this the expenditure of the year was almost the same as in the previous year.

Vital Statistics.

Births and deaths.

31. The salient features of the year were a marked decrease in plague and a severe outbreak of malarial fever in the autumn. Scarcity conditions continued to prevail, thus aggravating the mortality from malaria, and it is estimated that during the last four months of 1908 almost one-quarter of the population suffered from malaria. The birth rate showed some improvement in 1907, being 41·8 per mille as against 40·8 per mille in the previous year. The increase may be partly ascribed to the freedom from malarial conditions in the previous autumn. The death rate, 50·73, was higher than in any year in the previous decade with the exception of 1907, when owing to grievous mortality from plague it attained the high figure of 62·1 per mille. It exceeded the birth-rate by 8·93 which is an improvement on the previous year, when the excess was as much as 21·3 per mille.

Medical Relief.

32. The severe outbreak of malaria which marked the closing months of the year left its trace on the number of patients of all classes, which rose by 21 per cent. to 4½ millions in 1908. All possible agencies, including vaccinators, the plague staff and itinerating dispensaries, were brought into action to mitigate the severity of the outbreak.

The number of hospitals and dispensaries has increased from 425 to 438, and local bodies show increasing liberality towards hospitals. It is unsatisfactory, however, to observe that, while contributions by Europeans rose from Rs. 38,045 to Rs. 88,498, subscriptions by Indians fell from Rs. 24,316 to Rs. 24,195 in 1908, *i.e.*, about 2 pies per head of Indian population, and that too in a province where over 14 lakhs of rupees are annually paid in income tax. No great increase is likely to take place in subscriptions till public opinion takes up a more reasonable attitude towards the claims to gratuitous relief of persons of means. It is entirely contradictory to the root idea of a charitable hospital or dispensary that people who can afford to pay should receive medical relief and medicine there gratis. The fact that the practice has sprung up in the Punjab and is not discouraged by local authorities is a serious difficulty in the way not only of improving the medical institutions, but also of setting free local funds which are urgently required for sanitation, communications and education. If the well-to-do compounded for their improper receipt of gratuitous medical relief by liberally subscribing to the institutions, there might be something to be said in favour of allowing the present state of things to continue.

But when the amount subscribed in the whole province by Indians amounted to Rs. 24,195 only, it is impossible to allow the misappropriation of public monies involved in the present neglect of the rules to continue. An additional advantage will be that there will then be scope for private practitioners in the province, and a paying and useful career will be opened out for the educated youths of the Punjab, while the charitable institutions will be enabled to extend their operations amongst the poorer classes for which they are intended.

SANITATION.

33. It is difficult to get the villagers to follow, or even to appreciate, the most elementary sanitary principles. Rewards for improved village sanitation continue to be granted by District Boards, but these elicit very little interest on the part of village communities.

In the Chenab Canal Colony, however, where rewards for good sanitation are made available for the construction of religious buildings, village guest-houses and schools, increasing interest is shown. Many of the villages in this colony have a well with a raised masonry coping, clean protected tanks, and regular places for storing manure outside the village.

In municipalities the value of sanitary measures is gradually being inculcated. A sum of one lakh was placed at the disposal of the Sanitary Board out of the sanitary grant given by the Government of India, for distribution to municipalities as grants-in-aid for sanitary works during 1908-09, inclusive of Rs. 30,000, the usual grant. From this sum allotments were made to the municipalities of Multán, Lahore, Kasúr and Muzaffargarh for drainage schemes.

EDUCATION.

34. The growing charges upon the public funds entailed by the educational movement are very considerable. The demands of the Education Department increase much faster than the revenues available to meet them. As these in the case of provincial and district board receipts are to a great extent fixed and stationary, the Imperial Government has had to come to the aid of provincial funds with special grants, and district boards have not been backward in responding to the requirements of the situation. As the Education Department must share in the vicissitudes of the province there has been in the year under report a set-back in expenditure from public sources, but taking a period of six years, it is found that the expenditure by the Local Government and local bodies has increased 72 per cent. During the same period the expenditure from fees has increased only 25 per cent., and only 21 per cent. of the cost of education is now met from this source as compared with 27 per cent. six years ago. Between 6 and 7 annas per month is the average fee paid by a student in the Punjab for his education. The actual fees vary from the not inconsiderable rates paid by University students to the village primary school charges, which for agriculturists are remitted entirely.

The number of pupils in primary schools has increased by 4,309 and in secondary schools by 4,936. The latter increase is proportionately much larger, and amounts to 7 per cent. on the previous year's figures. The progress of higher education is unchecked. The number of students in Arts Colleges has increased by 41 per cent. since 1902-03. The increase in the year under report was 7 per cent.

What is now required is to stimulate in rural tracts private enterprise in the promotion of primary education; and of education as a whole it may be said that the pressing need of the time is, not for cheaper schools, but for more and better schools.

PART II.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

1. Physical Features of the Country, Area and Climate.

(See pages 1—12 of the report for the year 1901-02.)

2. Historical Summary.

(See pages 12—32 of the report for the year 1901-02.)

3. Form of Administration.

(See pages 32—35 of the report for the year 1901-02.)

4. Character of Land Tenures and System of Survey and Settlements.

(See pages 35—43 of the report for the year 1901-02 and the Punjab Settlement Manual.)

5. Civil Divisions of British Territory.

(See page 44 of the report for the year 1901-02.)

6. Details of the last Census—Tribes and Language.

(See pages 45—53 of the report for the year 1901-02.)

7. Changes in the Administration.

Personnel.

1. Sir Thomas Gordon Walker, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., held charge as Lieutenant-Governor from the 23rd January of 1908 to the 25th of May 1908, on the forenoon of which date he was relieved by Sir Louis William Dane, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., and retired from the service.

Area, population and revenue of the Punjab.

2. The area of the province according to the latest returns is 97,394 square miles, its population is 20,340,372, and the land revenue collections over 245¾ lakhs of rupees.

8. Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

Political supervision.

3. The arrangements for the purposes of supervision of the Native States in the Punjab remain as they were at the time of the last report, Baháwalpur being included with the Phulkián States in the charge of a Political Agent. The States, with the exception of Chamba, which is in the political charge of the Commissioner of Lahore, are arranged in four groups as follows :—I, the Phulkián States, comprising the States of Patiála, Jínd and Nábha, for which a separate Political Agent was appointed on the 16th January 1901, and in whose charge Baháwalpur is now included ; II, the States of Kapúrthala, Mandi, Máler Kotla, Farídkot and Suket in the political charge of the Commissioner of Jullundur ; III, the States of Sirmúr, Kalsia, Pataudi, Loháru and Dujána in the political charge of the Commissioner of Delhi ; and IV, the States of Biláspur, Bashahr, Nálagarh, Keonthal and numerous other small States in the Simla Hills, which are in the charge of the Superintendent of Hill States, Simla.

The Nawab of Máler Kotla, the Raja of Suket, the Sardar of Kalsia and the Nawab of Dujána died during the year.

The young Raja of Suket was married on 22nd June 1908 to a niece of the Raja of Sirmúr.

The health of the people, on the whole, was good, and agricultural conditions were fairly satisfactory, except in the State of Mandi, which suffered from scarcity.

Increasing interest in the material welfare of the people is illustrated by the accumulation of reserves in Jínd and Baháwalpur for expenditure on railways, by the hydro-electric power scheme in Chamba, and by the scheme for water-supply in Sirmúr.

The State of Baháwalpur was honoured by a visit from the Commander-in-Chief, and those of Baháwalpur, Mandi, Máler Kotla, Suket and Bilášpur by visits from the Lieutenant-Governor.

Full information will be found in the report for 1901-02 as to the area, population, gross revenue, and estimated military forces, including police, of each State, and the following brief notices are inserted concerning special events of importance in the history of particular States during the year:—

PATIALA.

Area, 5,412 square miles; population 1,596,692; gross revenue, Rs. 78,67,110; army and police, 5,542; race of Chief, Sidhu Jat; age of Chief, 17.

Personal.

4. The Maharaja spent the whole year in the State. No changes in the Council of Regency took place. Major Popham Young left the State shortly after the close of the year under review, after practically completing the revision of the revenue settlement.

Mr. Biddulph resigned his appointment of Accountant-General in March 1909. His services to the State, which commenced in 1901, have been of very great advantage to its finances.

General.

5. There was an expenditure of 9½ lakhs of rupees on public works, including schemes of water-works for Patiála City and Chail. The mono-rail system was extended, and considerable extensions of the canal system were undertaken.

JIND.

Area, 1,259 square miles; population, 282,003; gross revenue, Rs. 13,00,000; army and police, 1,734; race of Chief, Sidhu Jat; age of Chief, 30.

General.

6. The administration of the State, in which the Raja takes a keen interest, continues to be very satisfactory. There is a reserve of 10 lakhs in the treasury which it is proposed to spend on the State's share of the projected Jínd-Pánipat Railway. The harvests were below the average. The health of the people has been fairly good.

NABHA.

Area, 928 square miles; population, 297,949; gross revenue, Rs. 14,71,539; army and police, 1,480; race of Chief, Sidhu Jat; age of Chief, 65.

Personal.

7. The health of the Raja has been good. The term of the Tikka Sahib's appointment as an Additional Member of the Viceroy's Council expired during the year. The Raja continues to supervise personally every detail of administration.

BAHAWALPUR.

Area, 15,000 square miles; population 720,877; gross revenue, Rs. 30,72,000; army and police, 1,767; race of Chief, Daudputra; age of Chief, 4.

Personal.

8. In December 1908 a minor operation was successfully performed on the Nawab.

The Commander-in-Chief visited the State in November, and on the 2nd of the month, the 50th Anniversary of the assumption of direct rule in India by the Crown, His Excellency held a Darbar at Baháwalpur at which he announced the contents of the Royal Proclamation. The Lieutenant-Governor visited the State in November. Sardar Mahmud Khan, Judicial Member of Council, had to resign during the year owing to ill-health. It has been decided to reduce, tentatively, the number of the members of Council from 5 to 4 and to utilise the money so saved in constituting a Chief Court which will dispose of the judicial work formerly dealt with by the Judicial Member.

9. The State has reserved a very large balance of 64 lakhs in coin, deposits and securities, in view of the expenditure which will have to be made on the proposed Khanpur-Chachran Railway. Progress was made with the survey of a new inundation canal. General.

KAPURTHALA.

Area, 630 square miles; population, 314,351; gross revenue, Rs. 25,00,000; army and police, 1,602; race of Chief, Ahluwalia Sikh; age of Chief, 36; tribute, Rs. 1,31,000.

10. The Raja spent the summer months of 1908 in Europe. During his absence the business of the State was carried on by the Council. Personal.

11. A considerably larger area of land came under cultivation both in the *kharif* and in the *rabi* than in the previous year. General.

The health of the people suffered from an epidemic of cholera in August and September 1908 and malaria was prevalent, but there was no plague, and the number of deaths dropped from 19,984 in 1907-08 to 6,355 in the year under report. The building of the new palace at Kapurthala was finished during the year.

MANDI.

Area, 1,200 square miles; population, 174,045; gross revenue, Rs. 4,30,000; army and police, 691; race of Chief, Rajput; age of Chief, 25; tribute, Rs. 1,00,000.

12. Padha Jiwa Nand was Wazir of the State throughout the year. Personal.

13. Excessive rain did much damage to roads and necessitated heavy expenditure on repairs. General.

Prices of food-grains ruled high during the year and the people suffered from severe scarcity. Wheat sold at 6 seers, rice at $5\frac{3}{4}$, and gram at $5\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee. Mandi town was visited by cholera in spring, and small-pox was prevalent in the State during the early part of 1909.

The salt mines and tea gardens were slightly less profitable than in the previous year.

SIRMUR.

Area, 1,198 square miles; population, 135,687; gross revenue, Rs. 6,00,000; army and police, 608; race of Chief, Rajput; age of Chief, 42.

14. The administration of this State continues to be most efficient. An extradition treaty between the Darbars of Sirmúr and Bashahr was executed during the year. General.

At the request of the Raja the Punjab Government lent to the State the services of their Sanitary Engineer, who has drawn up a project for a water-supply for the town of Náhan. The scheme is an ambitious one and will cost over $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs.

MALER KOTLA.

Area, 167 square miles; population, 77,506; gross revenue, Rs. 3,32,747; army and police, 693; race of Chief, Sherawani Afghan; age of Chief, 28.

15. Nawab Muhammad Ibrahim Khan died on 22nd August 1908. His son Ahmad Ali Khan, who had administered the State as Regent since 1905, was formally installed as Nawab by the Lieutenant-Governor. Personal.

16. The produce of both harvests was average, and the number of deaths due to plague decreased by half. General.

FARIDKOT.

Area, 642 square miles; population, 124,912; gorss revenue, Rs. 3,81,9.2; army and police, 483; race of Chief, Barar Jat; age of Chief, 12.

Personal.

17. The young Raja, Brij Indar Singh, and his brother made good progress at the Aitchison Chiefs' College.

The Council, under the Presidency of Sardar Bahadur Partap Singh, continued to do good work. Sardar Abdul Ghafur Khan, one of the Members, died and his place was taken by Maulvi Wali Ullah.

CHAMBA.

Area, 3,216 square miles; population, 127,834; gross revenue, Rs. 5,89,727; army and police, 419; race of Chief, Rajput; age of Chief, 40; tribute, Rs. 3,800.

Personal.

18. Raja Sir Bhuri Singh continues to administer his State in a very satisfactory manner.

The Tikka, Ram Singh, left the Aitchison College and joined the Imperial Cadet Corps at Dehra Dun, where he is reported to be doing well. The other sons of the Raja are still at the Aitchison College.

General.

19. The reserved forests, the administration of which was handed back to the Raja in 1908, yielded a very much smaller revenue than in the previous year 1907-08 owing to changes in the working plan, which provided for a smaller number of trees being felled.

Satisfactory progress was made with the hydro-electric power scheme.

The people suffered a good deal from malarial fever and from an epidemic of small-pox. Vaccination appears to have been very successful in checking the latter, and the State hospital does good work.

Education is liberally supported by the State.

SUKET.

Area, 420 spuare miles; population, 54,676; gross revenue, Rs. 83,048; army and police, 68; race of Chief, Chandarbansi Rajput; age of Chief, 24; tribute, Rs. 11,000.

Personal.

20. Raja Dusht Nikandan Sen died of asthma on the 26th May 1908, and was succeeded by his son Bhim Sen. The Raja, who is now 24 years old, had been at the Aitchison Chiefs' College since 1902 and had completed his studies at the Government College, Lahore. The installation ceremony was performed at Suket by the Lieutenant-Governor on the 28th October. The Raja was married on the 22nd June 1908 to a niece of the Raja of Sirmur. He has initiated many very necessary reforms in the methods of administration, and it is hoped that he will succeed in rescuing the State from the unfortunate confusion in which his father left it. He takes a close interest in all departments of Government.

KALSIA.

Area, 163 square miles; population, 67,181; gross revenue, Rs. 1,99,725; army and police, 172; race of Chief, Jat; age of Chief, 6.

Personal.

21. Sardar Ranjit Singh, Chief of Kalsia, died at Mussoorie in July 1908. His son, Sardar Ravi Sher Singh, who is six years old, was formally installed on the *gaddi* by the Commissioner of Delhi Division on the 8th March 1909.

During the minority of the Chief the administration is being carried on by a Council consisting of a Sikh President, who is a Government official lent for the purpose, and two Members, one a Hindu, the other a Muhammadan. The Council works under the close supervision of the Commissioner of Delhi Division.

PATAUDI.

Area, 52 square miles; population, 21,933; gross revenue, Rs. 94,725; army and police, 64; race of Chief, Afghan; age of Chief, 49.

22. The Nawabzada Muhammad Ibrahim Ali Khan is being instructed in administration by the Manager. Personal.

23. A revision of the land revenue settlement has been effected. General.

LOHARU.

Area, 222 square miles; population, 15,229; gross revenue, Rs. 79,650; army and police, 56; race of Chief, Mughal; age of Chief, 49.

24. The first instalment of the loan of Rs. 3,11,000 from the Mamdot Estate mentioned in last year's report has been paid, and all but a very few of the Nawab's debts have been liquidated. The services of a Naib Tahsildar were lent to the State for the purpose of revising the settlement. General.

DUJANA.

Area, 100 square miles; population, 24,174; gross revenue, Rs. 77,170; army and police, 207; race of Chief, Pathan; age of Chief, 26; tribute, 50 troopers on requirement.

25. Nawab Muhammad Mumtaz Ali Khan died at Dujána in June 1908. He left no sons, and his cousin, Nawab Khurshed Ali Khan, has been recognised as Nawab. Personal.

BILASPUR.

Area, 448 square miles; population, 90,873; gross revenue, Rs. 1,90,000; army and police, 198; race of Chief, Hindu Rajput; age of Chief, 36; tribute, Rs. 8,000.

26. Raja Bije Chand returned to his State in July 1908, accepting certain conditions imposed by Government. Rai Sahib Mian Amar Singh, who had managed the State during the Raja's absence at Benares, remained as Wazir until December, by which time he had practically completed land-revenue settlement operations. In December he was succeeded as Wazir by Mian Durga Singh, formerly Wazir of Jubbal State. The administration is reported to be proceeding smoothly. Personal.

BASHAHR.

Area, 3,820 square miles; population, 80,572; gross revenue, Rs. 95,000; army and police, 13; race of Chief, Hindu Rajput; age of Chief, 71.

27. Kanwar Surandah Shah, the Raja's adopted son, took up his residence in the State in May 1908. He was invested with magisterial powers in October. Personal.

OTHER HILL STATES.

28. The Tikka of Koti died in January 1909. In Keonthal Rai Sahib Mian Amar Singh was appointed financial manager to administer the income and expenditure of the State and to arrange for the payment of the Raja's debts. It was decided to hand over the management of the Keonthal forests to the Forest Department.

Thakur Ranjit Singh, Chief of Ghund, was invested with ruling powers, subject to certain restrictions. In Bághal the Council was abolished and a manager appointed. The Rana of Jubbal and the Thakur of Taroch were invested with ruling powers.

Chapter I.
PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

29. The peace of the border has not been disturbed by any serious tribal feuds. The working of the Border Military Police and of the joint jirgas was satisfactory. There has been an increase in offences relating to women with a corresponding increase in murder cases. The gradual settling-down of the people is resulting in a rapid increase of land cases.

9. Condition of the people.

30. The year has been on the whole one of great prosperity, except for an unprecedented outbreak of fever in the autumn of 1908. The subject is treated in detail in Chapter VI.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

[Detailed information on the subjects dealt with in this chapter will be found in the following publications :—

Realization of the revenue. } —Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Punjab for the agricultural year—1st October 1907 to 30th September 1908.
Surveys. }

Surveys (other than land revenue).—General Report on the Operations of the Survey of India for the year ending 30th September 1908.

Settlements.—Annual Report on the Settlement operations in the Punjab for the year ending 30th September 1908.

Land Records.—Report on the operations of the Department of Land Records, Punjab, for the year ending 30th September 1908.

Waste lands and Government Estates.— { 1. Annual Report for the Chenab, Jhang, Chunián and Jhelum Colonies for the year ending 30th September 1908.
2. Land Revenue Report, *as above.*

Wards Estates.—Report on the Administration of Estates under the Court of Wards in the Punjab for the year ending 30th September 1908.

Revenue and rent-paying classes.— { 1. Annual Report of the working of the Punjab Alienation of Land Act, XIII of 1900, for the year ending 30th September 1908.
2. Land Revenue Report, *as above.*]

10. Realization of the Land Revenue.

General conditions in 1907-08.

31. The heavy rainfall of March and April 1907 was favourable to sowings for autumn crops and, although the monsoon was somewhat late, the general conditions were more or less normal up to the last week in August, when the monsoon rains abruptly and totally ceased. This loss of some three weeks of normal rainfall was disastrous to crops dependent entirely on rain, which were in most parts of the province almost completely a failure. The summer floods in the rivers were abnormally low, with the result that inundation canals opened later and closed earlier than usual, while much land, usually dependent for moisture on direct inundation from the rivers, was not reached by the floods at all.

The early cessation of the monsoon also prevented sowings for spring crops on unirrigated land. It had the further effect of causing a serious shortage of water in perennial canals and the early closing of the inundation canals. The winter rains were extremely late, scanty and short-lived and, though a large area was sown after the rains had asserted themselves, especially in the north of the province, drought set in again in February and March, and much of the late crop was lost.

Fixed land revenue.

32. The total demand was Rs. 2,06,51,946 as compared with Rs. 2,05,35,180, the chief change being the addition of Rs. 1,25,771 to the fixed demand of Ráwalpindi and Attock as the result of the lately concluded settlement in those districts.

Suspensions and remissions.

33. Owing to the widespread failure of both harvests of the year it was found necessary to suspend the collection of Rs. 40,34,423 or practically one-fifth of the fixed demand. Only Rs. 1,83,565 were recovered out of suspended arrears, and the outstanding balance rose from 27½ lakhs at the end of the preceding year to over 61 lakhs. Suspensions were sanctioned in 24 districts of the province, the Delhi division alone being responsible for about Rs. 23½ lakhs.

The marked increase in suspensions since 1895 is partly due to the fact that since that year the province has been suffering from a cycle of unusually dry seasons, and partly to the policy of greater liberality in suspending fixed land revenue which is now adopted in accordance with the recommendations of the Famine Commission and the instructions of the Government of India.

Fluctuating land revenue.

34. Out of the demand for the year under report of Rs. 40,28,682, Rs. 39,52,213 or about 98 per cent. was collected. The only serious balances are in Ferozepore and Montgomery. In both districts the demand which is on account of fluctuating canal advantage rate is under suspension.

The total amount due for collection at the close of the year was Rs. 86,811, of which over Rs. 57,000 is under suspension. It is necessary to explain how it is that a fluctuating demand has at times to be suspended. Under the rules of the older systems of fluctuating assessments the rates are applied not to the harvested but to the sown areas, and were framed on the assumption that a normal proportion of the area sown would bear a matured crop. When, therefore, a widespread failure of sown crops occurs, the assessments fall upon the harvested areas at an unduly high rate, and relief is required.

Miscellaneous land revenue.

35. The total demand of the year under report under miscellaneous land revenue amounts to Rs. 11,62,552, and of this only Rs. 39,767 or about 3 per cent. remained uncollected at the close of the year. The chief item of income is under the head "Sale of Government estates". Most of the recoveries are in the Chenab colony districts of Lyallpur, Gujránwála and Jhang, and in Multán on account of the Sidhnai colony.

Miscellaneous.

36. The proportion of assigned to total land revenue is about one-tenth, nearly 87 per cent. of which is assigned in perpetuity.

The decrease in the amount of revenue recoverable during the year has naturally led to a considerable decrease in the number of processes issued. Revenue-payers on the whole pay their dues to Government with promptness and regularity.

In connection with the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, the question of "remodelling," and its probable effect upon the areas commanded by the upper reaches of canals or distributaries so "remodelled," came under the consideration of the Local Government.

As regards the Punjab Minor Canals Act, the year was a bad one for minor canals generally owing to the abnormal shortage of water in the rivers. During the year the Local Government, in accordance with the recommendations of the Irrigation Commission, instituted a survey of the irrigation possibilities of the province by districts. Hill torrents are being checked, and sub-artesian supplies exploited.

Over 22 lakhs of rupees were advanced under the Agriculturists' Loans and Land Improvement Acts. These liberal advances materially helped the people to stave off famine, but the outstanding balance of principal alone at the end of the year, nearly 35½ lakhs, is too high to be viewed with entire equanimity. The outstanding balances of fixed and fluctuating land revenue and advances (principal only) to cultivators amount to nearly 8 annas, while the collections for the year amount to little more than one rupee, per head of population.

11. Survey.

Topographical work.

37. No. 9 Party continued the work on which it was employed during the preceding season in and about Dera Ghází Khan, consisting of original topographical surveys. The outturn of the Party for the season was 2,313 square miles. Part of the operations of No. 14 Party and of No. 12 Party lay in Attock district.

The Cantonment Survey Section No. 1 had all but completed the survey f the *gallies* round Murree by the end of the year under report. A small rea added to Delhi by an extension of the boundary was also surveyed.

38. Progress was made with the Bari Doab Traverse under an officer f Survey Party No. 18 with head-quarters at Montgomery. Eleven traversers vere originally allotted to this work, but during the season about half were gradually drafted away to meet the requirements of the Riverain section, thereby disturbing progress considerably. Difficulties in regard to transport and labour in the desert were again considerable. The outturn was about 1,000 linear miles of traverse, fixing nearly 400 bases. Riverain work was continued by another officer of this Party with head-quarters at Lahore. **Traverse survey.**

39. The work of boundary demarcation now consists mainly in the determination of riverain boundaries. **Boundary demarcation.**

The Local Government has been asked to sanction the decision arrived at by agreement between the Collector of Montgomery and the Baháwalpur State authorities on all the points of dispute outstanding over the fixed boundary on the Sutlej between this district and the State; and the boundary on the Sutlej between the districts of Hoshiárpur and Ambála has been determined.

The laying down of permanent boundaries of proprietary right along the rivers has resulted in a marked reduction in the amount of boundary work annually done by Revenue Officers, and in the number of disputes and civil and criminal cases which used frequently to arise over varying boundaries. Practically the only case in which boundaries of proprietary right and jurisdiction along rivers have not yet been fixed is that of the boundary between the Punjab and the United Provinces along the Jumna river. The advisability of fixing a permanent boundary in this case also was exemplified during the year by the transfer, owing to the action of the river, of 4,882 acres of land from the Saháranpur district of the United Provinces to the Punjab district of Karnál.

12. Settlements.

40. Settlement operations have been completed in Miánwáli; they are proceeding rapidly in five districts of the Delhi division, *viz.*, Gurgaon, Karnál, Rohtak, Hissar and Delhi, and a good beginning has been made in Gurdáspur.

Anticipations as to the probable duration of settlement operations continue to be falsified for one reason or another, but there does seem ground for hope that the instructions under consideration for shortening the process of revision of the map and record will lessen the duration and substantially reduce the cost and harassment of this part of settlement work.

New assessments have been sanctioned for an area paying 4½ lakhs of rupees. Soil survey operations required in connection with the great canals now under construction are proceeding satisfactorily and the villagers give a favourable reception to the re-adjustment of fields so as to make them rectangular areas.

13. Land Records.

41. The present percentage of men who belong to agricultural tribes is only 27, but as 48 per cent. of the candidates belong to those tribes, this percentage is likely to improve. **Patwaris.**

The pay and prospects do not appear to attract the class of men required, but as a whole the present staff perform their important duties with wonderful honesty and intelligence. The general excellence of the land record work done by all grades of the revenue staff, from the Deputy Commissioner to the patwari, is of great value in its results both to the administration and to the individual owner and cultivator of the land.

Mutations.

42. This year the enormous number of 851,000 mutations were entered up in the patwaris' registers. There were, in addition, 106,739 mutations left over for disposal from last year.

For the increase in volume of work many reasons suggest themselves: increase in population and cultivation, especially in the canal colonies; in some districts excessive mortality from plague and fever; extensions of the system of fluctuating assessments, which must in itself lead to more prompt mutation of names. There is also little doubt that as time goes on fewer mutations escape being brought to record at the time; and this in itself, while it increases the amount of current work, will tend to reduce the labour involved in the periodical revision of the records which takes place at settlement.

14. Waste Lands and Government Estates.

Chenab Colony.

43. In this colony the results have exceeded the most sanguine expectations. In 1892 the tract was a wilderness: in the past year 1907-08, in spite of the failure of the monsoon and the abnormal shortage of water in the river, the colony was able to feed itself and export over £2,000,000 worth of wheat, toria and cotton alone, to say nothing of other crops.

Small additional areas were given out during the year amounting to a net increase in the allotted area of 11,290 acres. The area sown on permanently allotted land amounted to 93 per cent. of the allotted area. Sowings for spring crops were restricted for want of water and the Irrigation Officers were put to it to find water to mature even the restricted area sown, but the result was a triumph of canal distribution.

Mule-breeding is developing rapidly, and 351 mules were purchased for the army as against 100 in the previous year. Camel service grants cannot be described as successful for the present, as the grantees at the tail of two distributaries, where the irrigation and grazing are inadequate, have been exempted temporarily from maintaining camels; but the irrigation of the lands held by camel grantees can probably be improved and ample grazing grounds should be available in the Thal between the Jhelum and the Indus, so that the success of this important experiment is not despaired of.

The competition for grants-in-aid for sanitation has aroused a real interest in the question and the colonists generally are far ahead of their brethren elsewhere in their appreciation of sanitary practice. Many villages are patterns of cleanliness and comfort, and the people evidently take pride in them and in their imposing houses of brick and mortar.

Jhelum Colony.

44. The Jhelum Colony has been extraordinarily unfortunate in the succession of calamities from which it suffered in its early days—drought, boll-worm, rust, rats and plague. In 1907-08 the autumn harvest was marked by drought, shortage of water and a plague of rats, but the area sown for the spring crop was 70 per cent. of the total area sown during the year; and with an excellent wheat crop and high prices, the year from the colonists' point of view is the most prosperous they have known. For the first time a year has passed unmarked by plague or a total failure of either harvest.

The success of the horse-breeding experiment on the Lower Jhelum Canal is highly gratifying. The industry has become a valuable asset both to Government and to the grantees. Again, during the past cold weather the Army Remount Department has been able to secure the full number of remounts required and the drafts sent from the Mona Depôt to three British Cavalry Regiments were of very high quality.

The unallotted area, 87,351 acres, is high. Since it has all been refused time after time as inferior by prospective colonists, to whom Government is pledged to provide land, it has been decided to allot the land locally.

Chunian Colony.

45. Nearly all the commanded area in this colony has been allotted permanently. In spite of the low supplies in this canal, 91 per cent. of the permanently allotted area was sown and 76 per cent. bore a matured crop. The percentage of failure is high, but the year was an exceptional one and very high prices were obtained for all produce. Considerable difficulty is being experienced in recovering the sale price from certain auction purchasers to whom further time has been given. The balance due at the end of the year was over half a lakh.

Jhang Colony.

46. The whole of the available area in this colony has now been allotted. Twenty-nine per cent. of the allotted area was sown during the year, which is an improvement on the previous figures. Much of the land allotted is believed to be inferior, and as it has been taken up by owners in neighbouring villages, a high percentage of cultivated area need not be expected. Forty-two per cent., however, of the sown area failed to bear a matured crop, and it appears that there is still some shortage of water.

Other Government waste.

47. The report of the working of the Chos Act, 1900, is fairly satisfactory, and good progress appears to have been made in re-clothing the hills with vegetation. The Local Government has agreed to acquire a small area in the Maili Cho and lease it to the Christian Colony of the village for experiments in training the torrent by engineering methods. This year's report again furnishes welcome evidence that the people are awaking to the necessity of curbing these streams, and applications have been made for the assistance of Government in doing so.

15. Wards Estates.

48. The number of estates under management is 48 as against 47 last year, two properties having been taken over and one released. In the case of the latter debts amounting to Rs. 30,682 have been paid off and the net assets on release were valued at Rs. 89,000 against Rs. 77,000 at the time of assumption of charge. As regards the disposal of assets, several estates made considerable purchases of land in the Chenab Colony and elsewhere of house property and of Government paper, while nearly one lakh and-a-quarter of rupees were spent by all estates in permanent improvements. The total assets of the 48 estates with their area of 300,000 acres amount to over 3½ crores of rupees and their liabilities to 15 lakhs.

Increased powers were delegated provisionally to Commissioners and Collectors to save unnecessary correspondence.

16. Revenue and rent paying classes.

Land Alienation Act.

49. The year to which this report relates was the first in which really acute agricultural distress has been general in the province since the passing of the Land Alienation Act: and the policy embodied in the Act was put to a severe test. Results appear to indicate that the peasant, instead of alienating land in times of scarcity, applies now to Government for suspensions of land revenue and for loans. During the year 40¾ lakhs of rupees were suspended out of the revenue and 22¼ lakhs were advanced as takavi, that is, 63 lakhs of rupees, which in less lenient times the people would have raised from the money-lender at high interest or by alienation of their lands, were granted to them by Government free of interest or nearly so.

There are no returns of the amount of floating debt incurred in the past year, but the figures of sales and mortgages of land afford a clear indication of the improved capacity of the zamindar to weather a season of scarcity. The total area of land sold in the past year was 9 per cent. below the average of the quinquennium ending 1906 and 20 per cent. below that of the previous five years; the greater part of the land sold was bought by members of agricultural tribes, and the average price of cultivated land per acre was Rs. 97 or only Re. 1 less than the record price of the preceding year. The price equalled 108 times the land revenue assessed and the present selling value of the proprietary rights in the land of the province is estimated at about 150 million pounds sterling.

Turning to the figures of mortgages ; it appears that though the cultivated area mortgaged has increased, it is considerably less than the area redeemed, and on the balance an area of 75,600 acres of cultivated land was freed from the burden of mortgage in the past year. Moreover, of the total area mortgaged, 73 per cent. was mortgaged to members of agricultural tribes.

On the other hand, the total amount of mortgage-debt has increased by 35½ lakhs of rupees in the year 1907-08. Indeed, while a net area of 339,524 acres has, during the past four years, been released from mortgage, the burden of debt on the land has risen by over a crore of rupees. This at least shows how enormously the value of land has increased, as a much smaller area is now required to secure a much larger debt. Borrowings on agricultural land are now much less reckless ; for, whereas the amounts raised by sale and mortgage—after deducting the sums used for redemptions—were in the three years before the passing of the Act 265, 253 and 245 lakhs of rupees, during the last three years they have been only 142, 144 and 163 lakhs, and though it is known that the peasants' homesteads instead of their land are in many cases being used as security, the country people would seem to be learning slowly, but unmistakeably, under the influence of the spread of education, the institution of co-operative credit and other social movements, the lesson of thrift. The money-lenders no doubt resent the fact that they have been prevented from acquiring landed property, but their business has not been injured so much as altered by the Act.

Tenants and rents.

50. The number of decided suits for enhancement of rent was 2,224 against 1,400 in 1907 and 698 in 1906. The rise is almost entirely due to the disposal in Hoshiárpur of practically all pending suits. Seeing that there are about one million holdings of tenants with rights of occupancy, the amount of litigation regarding their rents is on the whole very small. This is mainly due to the fact that, as a general rule, the rents of such tenants are fixed in terms of the land revenue and are raised or lowered automatically when any change takes place in the land revenue assessed on the land. Proceedings for the ejectment of tenants-at-will have received a considerable set back owing probably to the badness of the seasons and the marked rise in wages.

Descent of Jagirs Act.

51. Eleven declarations of a rule of integral descent were notified, bringing the total number of jagirs gazetted up to the end of September 1908 to 108 with an annual value of nearly 7 lakhs of rupees. Action is being taken in a number of cases, but in Ambála, where an attitude of distrust prevails, 212 jagirdars have signified their refusal to negotiate, and their objections though sentimental are as strong as ever. In Karnál, Jullundur and Ferozepore also the benefits of the Act have not yet been appreciated.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

[Detailed information and statistics on the subjects included in this chapter will be found in the following reports :—

Police.—(1) Report on the Police Administration of the Punjab for the year 1908.

(2) Report on the working of the Criminal Tribes Act for the year 1908.

Criminal Justice.—Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Punjab and its Dependencies during the year 1908.

Prisons.—(1) Report on the Administration of the Jails in the Punjab, 1908.

(2) Annual Report on the Reformatory School, Delhi for 1908.

Civil Justice.—Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Punjab and its Dependencies during the year 1908.

Registration.—Note on the Registration Returns of the Punjab for the year 1908.

Local Boards Administration.—District Report on the Administration and Accounts of the District Boards in the Punjab for the year 1908-09.

Municipal Administration.—Report on the working of Municipalities in the Punjab during the year 1908-09.

And in Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial, and Part VIII—Local Funds]

17. Legislating Authority.

(See pages 83 and 84 of the report for the year 1901-02).

18. Course of Legislation.

52. No meeting of the Punjab Legislative Council was held during the year 1908-09. **Punjab Council.**

The Hon'ble Mr. A. M. Ker, C.I.E., was appointed Hon'ble Member of the Council.

19.—Police.

53. The earlier part of 1908 was marked by a continuance of the conditions which had prevailed in the latter part of 1907. Crimes of violence succeeded each other with startling rapidity. Severe want, the maintenance of high prices and the remains of political unrest led to increase of crime, especially in the towns and cities to which the indigent always flock in times of scarcity. A spirit of lawlessness was abroad, notably among the Mánjha Jat Sikhs of the Central Punjab. As it is, the figures of reported crime in 1908 show a large increase on previous years in the case of the more serious classes of crime. But this increase would have been still more marked had not the heavy autumn rains and the appalling epidemic of malaria contributed materially towards the reduction of serious crime to a normal standard.

The total number of cognisable offences reported was 70,014 as compared with 66,632 in 1907.

There was a slight increase in rioting, mainly in the Mánjha tract, due apparently to the consumption of country spirit.

Reports of murders rose by 79 cases, and "true" cases were 71 in excess of the totals for 1907. Convictions were obtained in 44 per cent. of the true cases against 41 per cent. last year. The percentage of convictions in attempts at murder cases was 62 and in culpable homicide cases 70.

Dacoities numbered 74, which is an increase of 5 only on 1907, but the number is 20 in excess of the provincial average for the 6 years ending 1907. The Lahore district had the unenviable notoriety of leading the provincial figures with no less than 18 cases—mostly attributable to Mangal and his gang. The number of true cases of burglary shows a continuation of the previous tendency to increase. In 1906 these cases totalled 11,252 for the year. In 1907 this figure rose to 12,087 and in 1908 to 13,700. Similarly, cases of cattle theft returned as true increased by 299 as compared with the previous year.

The police have invariably shown themselves to be possessed of pluck and resource in dealing with open crime. Their discipline is good, and in the brain work of the force, as shewn by investigation, there has also been improvement.

The constables and the higher ranks are now fairly paid and represent all classes in the Punjab: over 40 per cent. of the men have ten years' service or more, and only 24 per cent. have less than three years' service. Dismissals from the force were only ·8 per cent.

On the 1st of January 1908, there were 25 punitive posts in existence; four new posts were added during the year and seven were abolished, leaving a balance of 22 at the end of the year. Generally, the effect of these posts is reported to be wholesome and deterrent.

Railway Police and Criminal Investigation Department.

54. Excluding false cases the number of cognisable offences reported during the year to the Railway Police was 2,530 against 2,403 in 1907, the increase being mainly in ordinary theft of bags of grain. The Railway administration are providing more covered waggons which will greatly reduce this kind of theft.

Six cases of murder were reported, including the brutal murder of Miss Taylor in the Karachi Mail Train.

There were 3 cases of dacoity, one of which was a successful armed raid by about 40 trans-border Afridis on the Peshawar City Railway Station.

There has been an improvement in co-operation between the Railway Police and the Police of Native States. The Criminal Investigation Department has again a good record, including the successful prosecution of a swindler who managed a so-called "Appointments Procuring Agency", and the maintenance of a careful watch on the illicit trade in arms and ammunition.

Rural Police.

(See pages 88 and 89 of the report for 1901-02).

Criminal Tribes,

55. There are sixteen criminal tribes in the Punjab proclaimed under the Criminal Tribes Act either throughout the Punjab or in particular districts. The largest of these are the Sansis and the Baurias. The total number of registered members of criminal tribes rose by 1·7 per cent. mainly owing to the number of children brought on the register on attaining the prescribed age. Convictions decreased by 3·5 per cent. On the whole, the Act was carefully worked, although in a few instances a tendency was noticed unnecessarily to disturb—on the ground that they were absentees—members of tribes who were earning an honest living after settling down in other districts.

Canal works have opened up a promising field for the energies of more than one tribe; every encouragement is being given to these people to resort to labour as a means of subsistence, and the experiment which is being tried by the Salvation Army to provide an industrial home for criminal tribes in the Ludhiána district will be watched with interest.

20.—Criminal Justice.

The number of offences reported during the year was 193,059, of which 124,921 were returned as "true." The figures for reported crime are the highest of any year, except 1906, since the Punjab was constituted within its present boundaries. Scarcity conditions account for most of the increase, but in certain favoured tracts, such as the Chenab Colony, wealth whetted the natural appetite for criminal litigation.

Percentage of convictions.

56. The percentage of persons convicted to those tried rose from 22 to just under 25, and there is a slight increase in the total number of cases dismissed *in limine*.

Registration of marriages.

57. Registration of marriages among Muhammadans has now been established as a successful system in many districts, but offences relating to women again figure largely.

There is a shortage of women, and their price has gone up. Much of the trouble arises from the laxity of the *karewa* system, and the practice of buying and selling women as wives without any concurrent marriage ceremonial

Perjury.

58. False evidence is so common that it is out of the question to [in]stitute numerous prosecutions. Such prosecutions as are ordered are gener[a]lly well selected cases, and even in these the accused stands a two to one [c]hance of acquittal.

Punishments.

59. The Chief Court confirmed the capital sentence in 58 and com[m]uted it in 11 cases; 21 persons were acquitted.

The number of persons whipped was 1,827 against 2,045, and the [n]umber sentenced to solitary confinement 6,766 against 5,694 in 1907.

21. Prisons.

60. There was no change in the number or status of jails in the Punjab [d]uring the year 1908. The policy of converting judicial lock-ups into sub[s]idiary jails has been successfully inaugurated. This class of institution [a]ccommodates short-term prisoners, and is run on simple lines with an abbre[v]iated code. It has the advantage of keeping the short-termed prisoners apart from the more serious criminals, and is more amenable to measures of discipline and control.

Proposals were received for the greater concentration of convicts in central jails, the erection of a new central jail at Ludhiána and the conversion of some of the present district jails into central jails. As a part of the scheme, certain other district jails were to be reduced to the status of subsidiary jails. The remunerative employment of extra-mural convict labour on canal works was, however, also under consideration, and the problem of combining concentration and remuneration was not solved.

Convict admissions.

61. The number of convicts received in the jails during the year was 17,803 as against 15,748 in 1907. The steady decline in the figures of convict admissions since 1903 has thus been broken for the first time in 6 years.

The Reformatory School.

Fifty-four juveniles as against 31 in 1907 were admitted to the Reformatory School, Delhi; the average daily strength was no less than 102·94 as against 67·65. This extended use of the Reformatory is satisfactory, but still more might be done, as it is observed that the number of juveniles sent to jail rose from 79 to 94. The present rise in juvenile crime is a bad sign of the times.

Nature of sentences.

62. In spite of the many occasions on which the attention of magistrates has been drawn to the impropriety of sentencing juveniles to short terms of imprisonment, such sentences are still awarded. Nor does the tendency to award short sentences to persons other than juveniles appear to be decreasing. For while in 1908, 3,467 persons were sentenced to imprisonment of one month or less, showing a slightly lower percentage, 20, than last year, the percentage of persons sentenced to periods of not more than six months on the total number sentenced has increased from 56·20 in 1906 and 58·15 in 1907 to 60·14 in 1908. At the same time it is satisfactory to observe that the percentage of long-term sentences from 1 to 10 years is being maintained. Sentences of transportation fell from 212 in 1907 to 191 in 1908.

Discipline.

63. The number of successful plots to escape was the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, 9, but the prisoners actually escaping were 19 as against 9 in 1907; 8 were still at large at the end of the year.

The number of prison offences rose from 36,892 in 1905 and 44,143 in 1907 to 56,837 in 1908. This increase seems to be due partly to worse behaviour on the part of the prisoners, partly to increased vigilance in reporting offences on the part of the subordinate establishment. The mark system ended with the year 1908, after which the unit of remission became the day instead of the mark.

Income and expenditure.

64. The total expenditure on guarding and maintenance during the year was Rs. 10,05,688 against Rs. 7,85,525 in 1907, and Rs. 8,16,224 in 1906. Calculated on the daily average strength, the cost per head was Rs. 83-9-8 against Rs. 70-8-6 in 1907, and Rs. 69-9-9 in 1906. Most of the increase falls under dieting charges. Cash earnings rose from Rs. 9-1-0 to Rs. 11-10-0 per head, and gross profits from Rs. 1,47,494 to Rs. 1,69,967.

Vital statistics.

65. The general health was better than in 1907, but the mortality increased. This was due to tubercle and dysentery. That only 10 per cent. of

prisoners suffered from malaria as against some 90 per cent. of the free population is a wonderful tribute to prison management.

22. Civil Justice.

Institutions.

66. In the triennium 1902–04 the average number of civil suits annually instituted was 214,795. The Punjab Loans Limitation Act of 1904 caused an immediate and marked diminution in litigation. In the three succeeding years, 1905–07, the average number of institutions was 164,092. The effect of the extension of the period of limitation upon the statistics of litigation has now commenced to pass away. The institutions of the year now under review rose to 189,150. This rise may be expected to continue until six years have elapsed from the date of the Limitation Act, when the figures of the period anterior to 1904 will probably be repeated.

Disposals.

67. Original suits for disposal in courts subordinate to the Chief Court rose form 196,650 to 221,842. The pending file on the 31st December stood 4,000 higher than at the close of the previous year, in spite of the fact that disposals rose from 176,320 to 196,911. There was no change in the average duration of either contested or uncontested cases. There was an appreciable falling off in the output of Divisional Judges, but in the Chief Court disposals kept pace with institutions.

Execution of decrees.

68. The percentage of realizations to the value of money decrees in execution was 27. There was a decrease in applications for execution, for creditors, unless driven to it by the law of limitation, are beginning to refrain from applying for executions against the peasantry in a hopeless year, such as the year under report.

General.

69. The chief matters under consideration were—

The *personnel* of Munsifs' courts, the proposed establishment of *panchayat* courts for the disposal of petty civil suits, the improvement of the law of appeal, the amending of the Pre-emption Act, the institution of summary extra-judicial jurisdiction in redemption of mortgage suits and the applicability of the Transfer of Property Act to the Punjab.

23. Registration.

70. The rise in the number of compulsory registrations of immoveable property from 61,032 of a value of 456½ lakhs to 71,354 of a value of over 561 lakhs seems to indicate that the hard times of 1908 led to the mortgage and sale of much more land than usual. To find a year in which a larger number of deeds were registered than in 1908, we have to go back to 1900, *i.e.*, to the period prior to the passing of the Punjab Land Alienation Act.

Optional registrations.

71. Optional registrations have risen in number from 6,556 to 7,316 and in value from nearly 9 lakhs to nearly 10 lakhs of rupees. The persistent decrease in these registrations noted in the review of last year's report has thus been arrested, but this may be due merely to the abnormal circumstances of the year and not to lack of confidence in mutation procedure.

Income and expenditure.

72. Registration income has risen from Rs. 2,53,921 to Rs. 2,93,380 or 16 per cent., and expenditure from Rs. 1,31,168 to Rs. 1,43,080, or 9 per cent. The increased volume of business is mainly responsible for this rise, but the grant of compensation allowance for dearness of provisions to the establishments and to Sub-Registrars drawing Rs. 30 a month has also swelled the expenditure

Miscellaneous

73. The Indian Registration Act of 1877 having been repealed by Act XVI of 1908 which came into force with effect from January 1st, 1909, a revision of the Registration Manual of 1887 became necessary and was taken in hand.

24.—Local Boards Administration.

Elections.

74. Few elections to district boards elicit contests. The district board of Gujránwála decided that election was little better than a farce, and passed a resolution that nomination should be substituted therefor. Even in contested elections interest flags. In Ambála the 25 vacancies

which occurred during the year produced 2 contests, in which only 44 voters out of 688 came to the polls. Only in Hoshiárpur and in Ludhiána was any interest in elections aroused.

75. The average number of ordinary and special meetings of boards during the year was approximately 6. Except in one or two districts, members display little or no enthusiasm in the working of the boards; but various efforts are being persevered in with a view to encouraging an intelligent appreciation and discussion of more important matters of principle by the members. Meetings.

25. Municipal Administration.

76. Judged by statistics of the average population of municipalities in the various provinces of India, the powers of self-government provided in Municipal Acts were granted much more freely in the Punjab than elsewhere. This has not proved by any means an unmixed good in the case of the smaller towns which are distant from district head-quarters, and in several instances the statutory powers of committees have been exercised with partiality, if not with corruption; the assessment of taxation has not been equitable; the working of the octroi system has been especially faulty; and the cost of collection of the tax has been out of all proportion to the revenue derived from it. Above all the complicated procedure of the Municipal Act has been found unsuitable to the conditions of these smaller towns, and the machinery required for its execution unnecessarily expensive. These were the considerations which in 1906 actuated Government in considering the advisability of reducing some minor municipalities either entirely or to the status of notified areas. The execution of this policy commenced in 1907-08 and has continued in the past year, during which 25 municipalities have been transformed into notified areas and 1 reduced entirely. New municipalities established and old municipalities abolished.

77. There were 226 vacancies on committees to be filled by election in the past year. Of these only 55 were contested, and in 2 cases no candidate came forward, with the result that the seats had to be filled by nomination. Many persons who would be useful members decline to stand for election if a contest is likely, owing to the prevalence of discreditable practices at elections. Possibly one of the results of allowing certain groups of municipal committees to elect members for the reconstituted Legislative Council may be to make the elective system more respected and to induce men of good standing to come forward more freely for election. In spite of the drawbacks of the elective system, it can be said that the working of committees has on the whole been good. Elections.

The recommendations of the Royal Commission on Decentralization have been circulated for opinion, and though many of their proposals had previously been, or were already being, adopted in the Punjab, the outcome should be a considerable increase in the powers and responsibilities of municipalities.

78. Octroi still continues to be the main source of municipal revenue. It was abolished in the towns from which the municipal status was taken away, and a house tax was imposed on most of the newly-created notified areas. There has been a fairly general decrease in the receipts from octroi in the past year in spite of the steady revision of octroi schedules, which generally entails some increase in the rates levied. The decrease amounts to $2\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs altogether. The reasons given are the general trade depression which prevailed, the severe epidemic of malaria caused by the heavy rains of 1908, the interruption of communications by floods, and the cessation of Hindu marriages for part of the year. This decrease can, therefore, be put down as one of the good points of the tax, for its incidence responds readily to any change in the material prosperity of the people. As to the working of the tax, it is a fairly general rule that the cost of collection is highest in the smallest and least efficient municipalities. Taxation.

79. The list of towns in which the incidence per head of taxation exceeds Rs. 2 is shorter by 6 than last year, and in several of the towns remaining on the list the incidence has decreased. Incidence.

26. Military (Volunteers).

Strength and distribution of Volunteer Forces.

80. The strength of the Volunteer Corps on the 31st March 1909 is reported to have been as follows :—

Corps.	Company.	Station.	Officers	Non-Commissioned Officers.	Privates.	Total enrolled strength.	Total number of efficient.	Sergeant-Instructors.
Punjab Light Horse.	...	Field Officers and Staff ...	9	...	...	9	9	4
	A	Lahore ...	2	17	58	77	77	...
	B	Ambála ...	2	11	50	63	63	...
	C	Ráwalpindi ...	2	5	71	78	78	...
	D R½	Pesháwar ...	1	2	21	24	24	...
	D L½	Amritsar ...	1	3	17	21	20	...
	E	Lyallpur ...	...	2	18	20	17	...
		Multán ...	1	2	8	11	10	...
		Jhang ...	...	...	3	3	3	...
		Sargodha ...	...	...	3	3	3	...
	...	Reservists ...	2	...	62	64	62	...
	...	Add for Supernumerary Officers ...	4	...	...	4	...	...
		Total ...	24	42	311	377	366	4
1st Punjab Volunteer Rifles.	...	Field Officers and Staff ...	11	...	...	11	11	9
	A, B, C and Cadet ½ Company	Lahore ...	9	29	273	311	302	...
	D	Ráwalpindi ...	3	8	135	146	123	...
	E	Amritsar ...	2	6	58	66	53	...
	F	Delhi ...	3	7	60	70	69	...
	G and H	Murree ...	5	15	99	119	118	...
	I	Pesháwar ...	3	5	51	59	53	...
	K	Ferozepore ...	1	7	71	79	79	...
	L	Srínagar ...	3	8	85	96	89	...
	M	Siálkot ...	3	4	31	38	36	...
	...	Reservists ...	2	...	102	104	100	...
	...	Add for Supernumrary Officers ...	20	...	...	20	...	...
		Total ...	65	89	965	1,119	1,033	9
Simla Volunteer Rifles.	...	Field Officers and Staff ...	8	...	...	8	8	3
	A	Simla ...	2	8	35	45	44	...
	B		3	11	91	105	105	...
	C		2	8	41	51	51	...
	D		3	9	55	67	67	...
	E		3	11	86	100	100	...
	F	Sanáwar ...	3	9	122	134	134	...
	...	Reservists ...	...	...	15	15	15	...
	...	Honorary and Supernumerary Officers ...	12	...	...	12	...	...
		Total ...	36	56	445	537	524	3
North-Western Railway Volunteer Rifles.	...	Field Officers and Staff ...	8	...	...	8	8	12
	A	Karáchi Cantonment ...	2	8	51	61	59	...
	B	Multán ...	3	5	83	91	87	...
	C	Lahore ...	5	11	158	174	162	...
	D	Lahore ...	3	13	90	106	101	...
	E	Ambála ...	3	14	129	146	145	...
	F	Sahāranpur ...	3	9	133	145	144	...
	G	Kotri ...	1	7	72	80	79	...
	H	Lahore ...	5	23	156	184	179	...
	I	Quetta ...	3	8	74	85	85	...
	K	Ráwalpindi ...	5	18	108	131	126	...
	L	Sukker ...	2	11	89	102	101	...
	M	Karáchi City ...	2	3	52	57	55	...
	...	Honorary and Supernumerary Members ...	6	...	...	6	...	...
		Total ...	51	130	1,195	1,376	1,331	12

Inspections.

81. The Punjab Light Horse, the 1st Punjab Volunteer Rifle Corps and the North-Western Railway Volunteer Rifles were inspected in February 1909, and the Simla Volunteer Rifles once in 1908. The results were considered satisfactory.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

[Detailed information on the subjects dealt with in this chapter will be found in the reports and statistical tables noted below :—

PROVINCIAL REPORTS.

Agriculture.—(1) Report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture, Punjab, for the year ending June 30th, 1909.

(2) Annual Report of the Lyallpur Agricultural Station for the autumn and spring harvests, 1908-09.

(3) Annual Report of the Punjab Veterinary College and of the Civil Veterinary Department, Punjab, for the year 1908-09.

(4) Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Punjab for the agricultural year ending 30th September 1908.

(5) Report on the working of Co-operative Credit Societies for the year ending 31st March 1909.

Weather and Crops.—(1) Report on the weather of the Punjab for the year 1908-09.

(2) Punjab Season and Crops Report for 1908-09.

Horticulture.—Report on the Government Agri-Horticultural Gardens, Lahore, for the year ending 31st March 1909.

Forests.—Progress Report on Forest Administration in the Punjab for 1908-09.

Arboriculture.—Progress Report on Arboriculture in the Punjab for the triennial period 1905-06 to 1907-08.

Mines and Quarries.—(1) Reports on the working of the Dandot Colliery for the half-years ending 30th June 1908 and 31st December 1908.

(2) Statement showing the production of minerals and gems for the calendar year 1908.

Manufactures.—(1) Report on the working of the Factories Act in the Punjab during the year 1908.

(2) Monograph on the Wire and Tinsel Industry in the Punjab, 1908.

Trade.—(1) Report on the Internal Trade of the Punjab by rail and river for the year ending March 31st, 1909.

(2) Report on the External Land Trade of the Punjab for the year 1908-09.

(3) Report on the Joint Stock Companies in the Punjab for the year 1908-09.

Public Works.—Administration Report of the Public Works Department, Punjab, Buildings and Roads Branch, for the year 1908-09.

Irrigation.—Administration Report of the Public Works Department, Punjab, Irrigation Branch, for the year 1908-09.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Agriculture.—As to *prices* see Prices and Wages in India.

Crops.—Agricultural Statistics of India, volume I, tables 2-I and 3-I.

Mines and Quarries.—
(1) Statistics of British India, Part I.
(2) Records of the Geological Survey of India, volume XXXVII.
(3) Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India under the Indian Mines Act (VIII of 1901) for the year ending 31st December 1908.

Manufactures.—Statistics of British India, Part I.

Railways.—Administration Report on Railways in India for the calendar year 1908.

Trade.—Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India.]

27. Agriculture.

Agricultural Department.

82. Lyallpur Agricultural College was not opened during the year as some of the buildings were still unfinished. Its foundation has created considerable interest, and 574 applications for admission have already been received. Of these a fair proportion has come from landowners and others whose main object is to acquire a scientific knowledge of agriculture. For the first year, however, the number of admissions will be restricted to 16, as the teaching staff has not yet been fully recruited and trained in its duties.

It is satisfactory to learn that, owing to a revolution in milling machinery, some of our hard red varieties of wheat are now much more sought after than soft white wheat by many up-to-date millers, for the soft white wheats do not really suit the province, and were grown chiefly to meet the foreign demand. Punjab wheat at present suffers from being exported with a substantial addition of foreign grains and dust, which could be removed by means of elevators. The result of the inquiries of the Imperial committee on elevators is awaited, as the subject is one of the greatest importance to the colonies where the conditions are similar to those in Canada and the United States.

Experimental work at Lyallpur.

83. At Lyallpur Agricultural Station considerable advance has been made in the work of selecting a cotton properly suited to the province; interesting experiments have been made in the cultivation of jute, the trial of chrome leather for well buckets, the use of castor cake for manure and in sugar-making with Mr. Hadi's plant, but definite results in these matters have not yet been attained, though it would seem fairly clear that the Hadi process is not suited to the Punjab. Bee-keeping and poultry-farming have also received a considerable share of attention during the year. Another experiment of considerable interest is the attempt to revive sericulture in the Punjab. The attempt has attained a very fair measure of success, and in Gurdáspur private enterprise has stepped in to revive this moribund industry.

E/1908-09

Agricultural machinery is growing in popularity, as is proved by the fact that a commercial firm have considered it worth their while to relieve the department of the work of distribution in the case of reapers and some other implements. A bulletin is issued giving the price, source of supply and special advantages of each implement tested and approved by the department.

Agricultural operations in the districts.

84. In Jhelum colony American cotton did well as regards both outturn and price. The distribution in districts of seed of selected indigenous cotton has led to the conclusion that the cotton-growers in these districts, except in Hissar, already do all that is reasonably possible for non-scientific men in the matter of the selection of seed.

Punjab Veterinary College.

85. The demand for the services of Veterinary Assistants during the year has been considerable. It will be some years before the supply can possibly equal the demand. This fact, combined with the very large number of requests for admission, makes a strong case for the founding of another Veterinary College in Upper India. Another aspect of the case is that, under present circumstances, after providing for military students and scholars deputed from other provinces, there are an unduly small number of vacancies left for Punjabis.

In an attempt to cope with the demand for trained men, unmanageably large classes were admitted in 1906 and 1907, and the results of the annual examination still show a somewhat low percentage of total passes in consequence.

The Quarterly Indian Veterinary Journal in Urdu has been revived.

Chapter IV. PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Civil Veterinary Department.

86. The year was particularly unhealthy for cattle owing to the [exc]essive rainfall. The new method of reporting epidemic disease and [col]lecting statistics works well on the whole and is probably the best that can [be] devised in the absence of any law compelling owners to report diseases.

Two hundred and twenty-four deaths from equine contagious disease in [dis]tricts not dealt with by the Army Remount Department were reported [aga]inst 107 last year, surra being the cause of 163, but as patwaris rarely [rea]lize the contagious nature of the diseases from which equines die, no in[fe]rence can be deduced from the figures which are prepared mainly from infor[ma]tion received from the veterinary staff. Among bovines, the mortality from [ri]nderpest was not extraordinarily heavy, but hæmorrhagic septicæmia, the [mo]st deadly of all cattle diseases in the Punjab, accounted for over 20,000 [de]aths. A good preventive agent for this scourge is still to seek.

There were 86 Veterinary hospitals against 77 in the previous [ye]ar and the number of cases treated rose by 50 per cent. The subordinate [st]aff, which is still short of the sanctioned scale, will be recruited at the rate [o]f eight a year.

Agricultural pests.

87. Insect pests were very little in evidence during the year. Autumn [c]rops suffered considerably in some districts from an excessive growth of [w]eeds which the peasants were too weak from fever to remove.

Loans to agriculturists.

88. In the year 1907-08 Rs. 3,35,347 were advanced to agriculturists under the Land Improvement Loans Act against Rs. 1,26,499, and Rs. 18,94,837 under the Agriculturists' Loans Act against Rs. 2,77,119 in the previous year.

The amount distributed under the latter Act has only been approached or exceeded in the famine year of 1899-1900. These liberal loans of State money enabled the farmers of the tracts affected by drought to sow and bring to maturity a considerably larger area of crops than they otherwise could have done, and coupled with the equally liberal suspensions granted of the fixed land revenue demand, they kept capital in the distressed areas, and helped to maintain employment for labourers and so to stave off famine conditions with their attendant dislocation of village economy and expense to the State.

As usual the result of the working of the Land Improvement Loans Act showed a profit to the Local Government: on the other hand, operations under the Agriculturists' Loans Act again entailed a loss, but it is expected that in future loans under this Act also may bring a small profit to the Local Government.

Co-operative credit societies.

89. Seventy-six new rural societies were started during the year, to which must be added 12 which were at the end of last year classed as nominal, but which have since started active work. On the other hand, 34 societies were ordered to be wound up. Altogether there are now 311 active rural societies. Working capital increased from 5 to over $7\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs, of which less than 30 per cent. is borrowed capital; the balance is furnished by the members themselves. Share capital and deposits by members have increased from $3\frac{3}{4}$ to over 5 lakhs.

Of the 5 urban societies, the Jullundur Bank founded in 1909 is the first Punjab district bank intended to finance rural societies, of which very few are self-sufficient. Further, in order to attract money which is ready for investment away from head-quarters, unions are being inaugurated. These unions and the district banks will supplement one another, the latter acting as distributors of surplus money both to unions in each district and to other districts: while an added advantage of the unions is that they promise to provide a method of control over societies by societies.

Prices.

90. With a much better harvest than in 1907-08, there was naturally a fall in prices. But the drop was much less than might have been expected. As will be seen from the abstract given below, average prices continued greatly in excess of the average of previous years, and large profits have been made, particulary on rice, bajra, wheat, barley, gram and oilseeds, all of which were

good crops. With reserves depleted during the summer owing to the urgent demand of other Provinces, the desire of grain merchants to replenish their stocks was bound to keep up the rates for food-grains. Another important factor was the shortage of wheat in the principal wheat-growing countries which led to extensive forward purchases of wheat at rates of Rs. 3 per maund and upwards during the winter. The actual rates at harvest time were higher still, so that suppliers lost heavily by their speculation :

Crop.	Average normal harvest price.	Average harvest price in 1907-08.	Average harvest price in 1908-09.	Percentage above the normal in 1908-09.
	Rs. A	Rs. A.	Rs. A.	
Rice	1 12	3 4	2 11	54
Wheat	2 3	3 14	3 9	63
Barley	1 8	2 15	2 7	63
Jowar	1 11	3 5	2 10	56
Bajra	1 15	3 9	3 1	58
Maize	1 11	3 3	2 14	70
Gram	1 13	3 14	2 11	48
Rapeseed	3 4	6 0	4 5	33
Sugar	3 9	5 0	4 9	28
Cotton (unginned)	4 10	6 1	5 10	22

Quinquennial cattle census.

91. The third quinquennial cattle census took place in February 1909.

The quinquennium cannot be regarded as having been favourable for stock in the Delhi division; but in the rest of the province there has been a period of great agricultural prosperity in which the more valuable classes of stock naturally increased.

There has been an increase under all heads of live stock except under goats, which, owing to a series of good harvests, are now being discarded as milch-animals in favour of cows and she-buffaloes. The latter have increased by 20 per cent., horses and ponies by 26 per cent., and mules by 52 per cent. If we omit the Delhi division, the figures for the Punjab are very striking and afford a reliable measure of the prosperity of the canal and well irrigated tracts.

Prices have naturally risen to a very high level with the enhanced cost of food stuffs, and it is probable that the outcry that cattle are scarce is really directed at the greatly enhanced rates. But the agriculturist can afford to pay more, and the census figures certainly do not indicate that there is any immediate danger of a shortage. High prices are giving a stimulus to breeding in the Salt Range and probably also in other tracts. The province seems to be accommodating itself to the altered conditions.

28. Weather and Crops.

General.

92. The monsoon broke on July 8th. From about the second week in July to the first week in September the current was directed to a much greater extent than usual to Upper India, with the result that rainfall during this period was unusually heavy in the Punjab. Extraordinarily heavy rain fell in the western districts at the beginning of September. The effects of this heavy rainfall was shown for weeks after in the unusually high humidities recorded in the western districts of the Punjab. But, while the September rainfall was in such large excess in the west, it was in defect in the east of

the province, especially in the Delhi division. The monsoon may be said to have terminated in the Punjab by the 10th September, which is within a few days of the normal date. For the whole monsoon period the rainfall was largely in excess, the percentage of excess ranging from 80 in Simla to 400 in the district of Montgomery.

The outturns per acre of jowar, maize and cotton were particularly affected by the excessive rain and were rather below normal. On the other hand, rice and sugarcane did extremely well, and bajra was average and on a very large area. Taking area and yield together for all crops, the results were quite satisfactory.

The winter of 1908-09 was unusually dry and the season's rainfall was in defect throughout the province, but there was abundance of soil moisture for rabi sowings and on the whole the spring crop weathered the winter drought very well, was good on wet land, and average to fair on dry land.

Distribution of crops.

93. The total area sown during the year was 29,298,247 acres. This is 4,773,837 acres more than in the previous year and 7 per cent. above the normal area The proportion of the autumn to the spring harvest was as 44 to 56. Variations in these proportions are connected with fluctuating climatic conditions. There is no material change in the area sown more than once in one harvest. The areas under wheat and spring oilseeds were respectively 8 and 9 per cent. above the normal, the gram area was greatly above the average, and the cultivation of 'toria,' a very remunerative crop, is developing rapidly.

Irrigated area.

94. Irrigation naturally fell off during the kharif, but the shortage in the winter rains caused canals and wells to be freely resorted to for cereals. Gram generally matured without assistance. The total area irrigated during the year is 10,432,197 acres, this being 360,334 acres less than last year. An increase of 566,942 acres under canal irrigation is set off by a decrease of 959,602 acres in the area irrigated from wells. Canals ran well and were much used in the early spring months. Masonry wells in use declined by 1,352 to 250,900, and non-masonry wells by 8,548 to 33,858.

29. Horticulture.

95. In the Lahore Agri-Horticultural Gardens great improvements have been effected. Nearly all the overgrown orchards have been converted into ornamental lawns, and the scheme for improving the supply of canal water has been completed. There has been a slight falling-off in garden income, which is attributed partly to the prevailing scarcity conditions and financial stringency which reduced the demand for plants, especially for Government departments. Labour was dear, temporary Punjabi labourers refusing Rs. 10 per mensem.

A most useful book on trees and shrubs suitable to the Punjab was published by the Superintendent; and his advisory visits to district board gardens have done a great deal to advance horticulture in the province.

30. Forests.

Area.

96. The area under the management of the Forest Department fell from 9,138·57 to 9,014·05 square miles, the decrease being mainly due to the retransfer of 64,836 acres of unclassed State forest to the district authorities. The areas to be transferred to the canal colonies have not yet been determined.

Settlements.

97. Forty-seven square miles of the Pir Mahal forest have been notified as reserved, and four forests are still under settlement in Lahore.

Demarcation.

98. The length of boundaries remaining to be demarcated has been reduced from 3,553 miles to 20 miles, all the reduction except 2 miles being due to the removal from the return of the boundaries of the undemarcated forests in Kangra which, being incapable of demarcation, should never have been shown in the return.

Survey working plans.

99. No survey operations were conducted during the year. Working-plans are required for 4,640 square miles, for about 3,843 miles of which no steps can be taken until it is decided what areas are required for the canal colonies.

Communications and buildings.

100. It is recognised that well-graded roads are necessary, as their cost is recovered from the increased sales consequent on their construction and from the higher rates realised for the produce sold. More rest-houses are found to facilitate and conduce to inspections, while the higher standard of comfort prevailing in all classes compels the erection of a better class of house. Unfortunately the means at command are altogether incommensurate with the results sought to be obtained, and the Department urges the need of a special establishment to carry on these works.

Forest offences.

101. The total cases of the year were 6,752 against 6,362 in 1907-08. The number of cases taken into court was 804, and 84·75 per cent. of convictions were obtained against 79·63 in the previous year. The number of cases compounded rose from 5,247 to 5,793. Except in Rawalpindi division, no success was achieved in reducing the number of cases so compounded.

Protection from fire.

102. The area which the Department attempted to protect rose by 4,637 to 611,479 acres; of this not 2 per cent. was burnt. The total number of fires fell from 368 to 197, and the area burnt from 21,065 to 11,820 acres. The total cost of protection rose from Rs. 6,324 to Rs. 7,325, mainly spent on protection by fire watchers, the best method as yet devised for the Punjab.

Protection from cattle.

103. 18·16 per cent. of the total area was entirely or partially closed to grazing. The number of animals impounded fell from 30,840 to 23,897.

Protection against injury from natural causes.

104. *Trametes pini*, a fungus which reduces blue pine to powder, is a serious pest in the Simla Hills. Fungus is attacking deodar in Kulu and in the Sutlej and Beas valleys. It is, however, not unlikely that these fungi have always been present in the forests without doing serious damage. Of the beetles attacking the Simla catchment area, two varieties have been successfully combated by the felling of trap trees.

Sylviculture.

105. A sylvicultural revival movement is at work in the Department: inquiries are on foot, cultural prescriptions are overhauled, working-plans altered, and experiments made as to the incidence of grazing compatible with natural reproduction. The most interesting experiment of the year is in connection with several species of Eucalyptus which are now being grown on 17 different sites at various heights, with a view to the ultimate afforestation of the hills from Kalka to Simla. Fruit culture experiments are also being undertaken in the Simla municipal forests.

Exploitation.

106. The total quantity of timber removed by departmental agency was only 4·53 per cent. of the total outturn, and was practically confined to Changa Manga. Purchasers removed 63·80 per cent. of the timber and 9·23 per cent. of the firewood.

The total outturn of timber shows a fall of 34·74 per cent., due mainly to the cessation of the demand for spruce trees in Kulu and to the stopping of departmental works in Kulu and Bashahr. There was a slight fall in the outturn of firewood.

Financial results.

107. The total revenue was Rs. 11,97,924 against Rs. 13,76,047 in 1907-08. The decrease is almost entirely owing to the sales of timber from Kulu and Bashahr, which fell by Rs. 1,66,307 and Rs. 35,025, respectively.

The actual expenditure of the year was Rs. 8,39,576 against Rs. 8,32,224 in 1907-08, and the actual cash surplus Rs. 3,58,348, while the average for the preceding quinquennium was Rs. 5,41,617. The Conservator has explained that the year's surplus was reduced by Rs. 1,34,555 paid to the Chamba State on account of the previous year's working, and taking this sum

into account, the year's surplus is only Rs. 48,714 below the quinquennial average. A further drop is not unlikely, when the stocks of timber on hand have been worked out, unless there is a corresponding rise in the value of forest produce.

31. Mines and Quarries.

108. Gold washings in the districts of Ambála, Jhelum, Attock and Miánwáli produced 195 ounces of gold, worth Rs. 11,381. Gold.

109. Four hundred and twenty gallons of petroleum were collected in Miánwáli district. Petroleum.

110. Three thousand maunds of alum, worth Rs. 15,000, were produced in Miánwáli district. Alum.

111. Dandot Colliery worked by the North-Western Railway yielded 36,465 tons. Coal.

112. The amount of salt produced at the cis-Indus and Kálabágh salt mines and at the Sultánpur salt works was 3,133,704 maunds as compared with 2,942,648 maunds in the previous year. Salt.

32. Manufactures.

113. The total number of factories increased from 253 to 264. During the year 45, mostly ginning factories, were closed owing to the shortage of cotton. Multán and Muzaffargarh were forced by the cotton crisis to form a factory pool. Each factory in the two districts paid a certain percentage per maund of cotton purchased into the common pool, which was divided among the factories according to the number of gins specifically allotted to each in the agreement. Large industries.

Mainly on account of this depression in cotton-ginning, the number of persons employed in all factories fell from 27,096 to 25,689, the decrease being distributed among all classes of operatives.

114. Inspections were somewhat more frequent than last year, 104 factories being visited more than twice as against 68 then. The total number of factories inspected was also higher, 209 against 194. The spasmodic working of many factories hampers the efforts of inspecting officers. Moreover, managers, if they have reason to anticipate an inspection, have a habit of closing their factories for the day, and it is often only through a surprise visit that a satisfactory inspection can be made. The sanitary conditions are generally reported as satisfactory, though defects in latrine accommodation are noted in a number of factories. The health of the operatives in all districts is reported as generally good. General condition of factories.

On the suggestion of the Government of India rules were framed during the year to provide for the identification of children working in factories. During the course of the year printed instructions as to the inspection of factories were issued by Government to all Inspectors, and will, it is hoped, lead to more thorough and effective inspections than in the past. Partly no doubt as a result of these instructions, greater activity than heretofore has been shown in the prosecution of offences. There were 285 accidents in 1908 as compared with 251 in 1907. Of these, 25 were serious and 6 fatal.

115. An instructive monograph on the Wire and Tinsel industry in the Punjab has been written by Mr. E. Burdon, Assistant Commissioner. It shows that this ancient industry is said to have till recently employed a lakh of workers in Delhi and its neighbourhood alone, that its craftsmen in Lahore and Delhi protected themselves by uniting in guilds under municipal supervision, and that these guilds, paralysed by foreign competition and disorganised by internal dissensions, have now disappeared. Wire and Tinsel Industry.

The manufacture of drawn-wire in the province has decreased. As regards the manufacture of tinsel, the old processes still exist, but to a large extent the work is done with foreign material. Real and imitation gold and silver tinsel are imported in large quantities, chiefly from Germany. Imitation tinsel is cheap and very showy, and though it tarnishes readily, it is in great demand. There is still, however, sufficient work for the craftsmen who twist flattened gold and silver wire on silk thread, and for the women who weave this flattened wire into ribbon and lace.

33. Trade.

Total trade.

116. The total trade by rail and river of the province in each of the past three years, excluding animals and treasure, is shown in the subjoined table :—

Years.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Maunds.	Value, in rupees.	Maunds.	Value, in rupees.
1906-07	28,696,430	22,37,04,458	54,837,968	21,88,30,406
1907-08	40,301,583	25,91,77,359	62,943,875	28,56,00,964
1908-09	42,190,762	24,24,69,842	24,393,143	15,30,95,643

There is shrinkage in both imports and exports except in regard to the weight of the former, and the increase here is almost wholly explained by the inclusion of timber imported by river from Kashmir which was formerly shown in the returns of external trade. The low value of imports as compared with their weight is explained by this item coupled with the decreased demand for silver coin and bullion, the increasing import of coal at lower prices, and the large import of millet to replenish stocks.

The striking decrease in exports is mainly due to the depression in the grain trade. Bulky exports, such as wheat, raw cotton, pulse and millet fell off greatly. There were notable increases in the export of hides and silver coin ; and as prices ruled high, the value of exports is abnormally high compared with their weight.

River-borne trade.

117. The following comparative table gives the figures of river-borne trade for the past three years :—

Years.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Maunds.	Value, in rupees.	Maunds.	Value, in rupees.
1906-07	166,090	11,38,647	1,617,683	49,78,591
1907-08	213,610	16,87,021	2,375,937	93,81,180
1908-09	199,180	13,96,450	1,147,389	48,75,604

The river-borne trade (in which the timber floated down from Kashmir has not been included) partakes of the general shrinkage, imports having decreased by 14,000 maunds in weight and 3 lakhs of rupees in value, and exports by 12,29,000 maunds and 45 lakhs. Grain and pulse

make up about half the exports, whereas last year they constituted three-fourths. Exports are now very much what they were ten years ago, while imports are higher.

Trade in grain.

118. The table given below is interesting as showing the falling-off due to bad harvests :—

YEARS.	IMPORTS.		EXPORTS.	
	Maunds.	Value, in rupees.	Maunds.	Value, in rupees.
1906-07	1,218,101	46,47,519	44,612,716	11,99,50,457
1907-08	2,020,288	49,74,723	52,421,281	18,80,85,332
1908-09	3,012,507	1,31,09,718	15,126,225	6,50,94,770

The value of imports increased by 162 per cent., whereas the value of exports fell by 189 per cent.; indeed the province exported only five times as much grain and pulse as it imported, instead of 25 or 35 times as is usual in a good year.

The export trade in food grains was only 42 per cent. of the whole export trade against 66 per cent. in the previous year; but even so the bulk of exports of grain and pulse over imports equalled in value twice the land revenue demand.

Animals and treasure.

119. The value of animals imported and exported fell by about Rs. 70,000 and Rs. 1,18,000 respectively. Imported treasure fell by about $3\frac{1}{2}$ crores, whereas exports of treasure rose by almost 1 crore. Exports of silver coin to the United Provinces, Calcutta and Bombay account for 97 per cent. of the total export of treasure.

Imports.

120. In imports the largest increases have been in apparel (12 lakhs of rupees), gram and pulse (10 lakhs), jowar and bajra (12 lakhs), locomotives (11 lakhs), unwrought timber (36 lakhs), medicinal preparations (29 lakhs), and coal and coke (2 million maunds). Against "apparel" must be set off an increase of 9 lakhs in the exports. The severe epidemic of malaria which prevailed in the autumn must largely account for the increase in "medicinal preparations," the growing requirements of the railways for that in "locomotives", and "coal and coke."

The most noticeable decreases are in cotton piece-goods, European and Indian, and silk piece-goods (27, 36 and 22 lakhs, respectively), railway plant and rolling-stock (55 lakhs), gunny bags and cloth (71 lakhs), silver coin (293 lakhs), and silver bullion (40 lakhs).

Apart from the general diminution of the purchasing powers of the community owing to bad seasons, the decline in "cotton piece-goods" and "silver bullion" may be ascribed to the entire cessation of Hindu marriages owing to the inauspicious character of the year, that in "railway plant and rolling-stock"—though, as previously noted, there has been an increase in locomotives—to the fact that no new lines were opened during the year, and that in "gunny bags and cloth" and "silver coin" to the great shrinkage in exports of grain and other commodities.

Exports.

121. In exports the most notable increases are in "hides and skins" (11 lakhs of rupees), "other oilseeds" (16 lakhs) and "silver coin" (95 lakhs). The partial recovery of the trade in hides and skins may be attributed to a lowering of the rates for carriage on the North-Western Railway.

The chief decreases in exports are in "raw cotton" (75 lakhs of rupees), gram and pulse (214 lakhs), jowar and bajra (47 lakhs), wheat (752 lakhs), "other grains" (187 lakhs), rape and mustard seed (63 lakhs), wheat flour (17 lakhs) and husked rice (11 lakhs), all, it will be seen, agricultural products.

Cotton was the one kharif crop that was a failure. A large proportion of the jowar, bajra and rice goes to the United Provinces and Rájpútána and Central India, and the restoration of normal conditions in those tracts lessened the demand. For the other decreases the poor rabi, the improved conditions aforesaid, and the decline in shipments to Europe are responsible. Only 4,700,000 maunds of wheat, for instance, were exported to Karáchi in place of 22,500,000 in the year before.

Distribution of trade.

122. Of the external blocks, Karachi's share in the total import remains nearly the same as before, *viz.*, 40 per cent., but its share in the exports has decreased from 43 to 35. The port of Bombay takes 15 per cent. of the imports as against 16 last year; its share of the exports is still 7 per cent. Calcutta's share in the imports has risen from 9 to 10 per cent., and in the exports from 5 to 9. The only other notable variations are an increase in the United Provinces' share of the imports from 20 to 22 per cent., and a decrease in their share of the exports from 32 to 27, and rises from 3 to 5 and 4 to 8 in the shares in the exports taken by Sind and British Balúchistán and by Rájpútána and Central India, respectively.

Trade with trans-frontier countries.

Trade routes.

123. This year, for the first time, the returns differentiate trade by routes as well as by countries. The trade with Southern and Western Afghánistán, which is registered at the Kharr Border police post is reported to follow two routes; for the trade with Ladákh, and through Ladákh, two routes are shewn, and for Chinese Tibet four routes, which pass through country not yet surveyed. The information available as to the various routes is for the present somewhat vague, and probably not altogether accurate, but fresh information is being collected.

Afghanistan trade.

124. The trade with Southern and Western Afghánistán is insignificant. The import figures exhibit little variation in the last three years. As compared with 1906-07, the exports show a marked falling-off, especially in European piece-goods, but little confidence can be placed in the returns from this post during past seasons.

Trade with Ladakh.

125. In the trade with Ladákh there has, since last year, been a decrease of 1½ lakhs of rupees in the value of imports, and exports have fallen from a total value of Rs. 1,58,587 to Rs. 1,43,697. The export figures are the lowest known for many years. Poor harvests in the Punjab partly account, no doubt, for the large falling-off in grain. The only satisfactory item is an increase in European piece-goods from 284 to 426 maunds.

Trade with Chinese Tibet.

126 In the trade with Chinese Tibet there was an increase in the imports of 7 per cent. in weight and 28 per cent. in value as compared with last year. Borax shows an increase of 492 maunds which would have been still greater had last year's returns been correct, and wool exhibits a considerable rise. This wool trade is the most important branch of the imports, accounting for more than half the total value. Most of the import trade is harassed by the levy of heavy duties by the Tibetan authorities. The export figures, exclusive of treasure, show a decrease of 19 per cent., due partly to the

poor grain trade and to the washing away of the bridge on the Shipki-Morang route.

127. During the year a bonded warehouse has been established at Hoshiárpur where traders with merchandise for Central Asia can break bulk and have their goods checked and passed for refund at Leh of the customs duty paid at the port of disembarkation. Hitherto only goods that had passed through and been checked at Srinagar have been entitled to such refund. Rules for the procedure to be followed have been published and have been circulated, in a summarised form, among persons interested in the trade, and the warehouse was opened on December 1st. Measures for facilitating trade.

The Tibetan traffic on the southern routes will be much facilitated by the reconstruction of a wire suspension bridge over the Sutlej at Poo in the Bashahr State, which is being undertaken by the Public Works Department.

Joint Stock Companies.

128. The number of companies with share capital has risen from 96 to 128. Forty-two new companies, of which twelve were banking, and three insurance, companies were registered, and ten became defunct during the year. Number of companies.

129. The nominal capital of all companies has risen by 44 per cent. from 336 lakhs to 485 lakhs, and the paid-up capital by 7 per cent. from 139 lakhs to 149 lakhs. Paid-up capital is 31 per cent. of the nominal capital against 41 per cent. in the previous year. It would appear, thererore, that with an increase in numbers and capital, there has not been a corresponding improvement in financial stability. Capital.

34. Public Works.

130. The total outlay of the year on public works in the Buildings and Roads Branch was over 51 lakhs. Total expenditure.

131. Over 3¾ lakhs was expended on Imperial civil works, the most important of which were the Accountant-General's office at Lahore and the new Monotype Press building at Simla. Imperial civil works.

132. The expenditure on Provincial civil works amounted to nearly 16 lakhs on works and over 14 lakhs on repairs. Provincial civil works.

The main works that were undertaken were the enlargement of Barnes Court, Simla; the new district court at Dharmsála; tahsil buildings at Kángra; the installation of electric fans in the Civil Secretariat and new Public Works Department offices at Lahore; a new boarding-house for the Government High School, Simla; extension of the Chemical Laboratory, Government College, Lahore; additions and alterations to the Lunatic Asylum, Lahore; a judicial lock-up at Sargodha; improvements to the three Central Jails and seven District Jails; and the building of eleven police stations. Good progress was made with the construction of the College, and the main building and Chemistry Block were nearly completed, the expenditure on these being Rs. 2,38,676.

133. The provincial outlay on new roads amounted to nearly 4 lakhs and on repairs to over 10 lakhs. Good progress has again been made on the construction of the new feeder roads: and, in accordance with the proposals of the Improvement Committee of 1907, three new roads have been put in hand at Simla. Roads.

134. No expenditure was incurred during the year on famine, but a sum of Rs. 5,000 was spent on the purchase of tools and plant. Famine relief works.

Dera Ghazi Khan protective works.

135. A "cut" over 2 miles long was made through an island in the river Indus, somewhat to the north of the threatened town of Dera Gházi Khan, in the hope that the main stream would enter this cut and so gradually scour it out and leave the right bank of the river.

Miscellaneous public improvements.

136. The works classified under this head are mainly those of a local character connected with sanitary improvements in towns or with private undertakings, which for convenience are carried out by the Public Works Department. The most important of these which were completed during the year were the Water-Works of Ludhiána and the drainage systems of the following cities :—Delhi, Ráwalpindi, Multán and part of Amritsar.

Railways.

North-Western State Railway system.

137. Railways were exceedingly unprofitable in 1908. The gross earnings of the North-Western State Railway system fell by $151\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs or over one million pounds sterling. At the same time the proportion of working expenses to earnings rose from 51·9 to 79·8 per cent., so that the net earnings of the system were only $126\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs. Of this, the North-Western Railway proper earned little more than 90 lakhs, the lowest figure touched for twenty years. As a result, the loss to the State was over 165 lakhs of rupees on the year.

The main factors in the unprecedented rise of working expenses fall under the heads of improvement of railway facilities, increase in the price of coal, the raising of salaries due to the rise in the cost of living, and the grant of grain compensation in time of scarcity.

Passenger and goods traffic.

138. The number of passengers carried rose by nearly one million to over 40 millions; and the quantity of goods and minerals carried rose to $8\frac{1}{2}$ million tons.

Surveys.

139. Surveys were made of 209·46 miles on the 5 feet 6 inches gauge, and of over 90 miles on the 2 feet 6 inches gauge.

Accidents.

140. There were two serious train accidents during the year.

Damages by floods and rainfall.

141. Heavy rains and floods in August and September caused many breaches, where through traffic was entirely stopped for periods of from 2 to 14 days.

35. Irrigation.

General.

142. The direct receipts of the Irrigation Department during the year were Rs. 1,93,47,338, and the direct expenditure Rs. 1,85,52,628, the latter being divided into capital Rs. 1,02,64,579 and working expenses Rs. 82,88,049. In addition to direct receipts, the indirect revenue credited to the canals on account of enhanced land revenue, etc., was Rs. 32,51,276. The total area irrigated, 6,749,607 acres, was about 200,000 acres in excess of the average of the preceding three years. Matters of interest relating to the different canals are noticed below.

Western Jumna Canal.

143. The canal ran for eleven months; it was closed during the month of August 1908 owing to slack demand. The area irrigated for spring crops was less than that of the two previous triennia owing to insufficient supplies in the river. The net income of the year amounted to $13\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, equivalent to 7·81 per cent. on the capital outlay, as compared with 20 lakhs and 11·63 per cent. respectively of the previous year. The fall in percentage is due to decrease in area irrigated. The area irrigated was 654,390 acres, which is over 163,000 acres less than the maximum area proposed to be irrigated on this canal.

Chapter IV.
PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Sirhind Canal.

144. The early advent of the rains in June 1908 checked demand until the close of September, and the river was very low in March. The total area irrigated was 919,199 acres against 1,189,243 acres in the previous year.

The profit earned on the British branches was Rs. $20\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs equivalent to almost $8\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on capital invested.

Upper Bari Doab Canal.

145. After two bad crops there was a deficiency of fodder for cattle, and this accounts to a great extent for the heavy early sowings prior to the arrival of the monsoon. A further reason is to be found in the fact that the farmer was prompt to take advantage of the prevailing high prices for raw cotton to increase his sowings of that crop. On the whole the return to Government on the year's operations was excellent.

The total area irrigated was 1,039,477 acres. The net income of the year amounted to over 24 lakhs, and yielded 11·64 per cent. on the capital invested. In connection with the execution of works, the activity of the North-Western Railway in doubling its main line between Amritsar and Ambala and the construction of the Patti-Kasúr Branch and of the Sutlej Valley lines have tended to interfere with canal progress, to raise market rates appreciably, and to bring the question of labour supply to a somewhat acute stage. So long as these Railway lines are under construction the output of work from canal divisions will be limited.

Lower Chenab Canal.

146. The irrigated area of matured crops was almost 2 million acres, and the net revenue of the year almost 64 lakhs, equivalent to a percentage of 22·56 on the capital invested.

Lower Jhelum Canal.

147. The net area irrigated was over 600,000 acres, and the net revenue over 14 lakhs, representing 8·96 per cent. on the capital invested. Much attention was paid by the canal establishment to the efficient distribution of the canal supply and to the remodelling of channels. The quality of the land in those tracts in the lower part of the canal, where 'reh' and 'kallar' soil are met, has improved steadily as a result of the application of canal water.

Upper Sutlej Inundation Canals.

148. The year's operations resulted in a profit of 2 lakhs, equivalent to a return of 11·49 per cent. on the capital outlay, and the area irrigated shows an increase of some 150,000 acres over the previous year.

Sidhnai Canal.

149. The Sidhnai and its three subsidiary canals were in flow 100 days during the year and irrigated 190,000 acres. The year was financially an unfavourable one, owing to the small area irrigated in the previous rabi. The net profit was Rs. 51,068, equivalent to 3·88 per cent. on the capital outlay, against a profit of 4 lakhs, equivalent to 30·65 per cent., for the preceding year.

Indus Inundation Canals.

150. Heavy erosion occurred in July and August 1908 at Dera Gházi Khan. The stone embankment and 2 miles of the Kasturi Canal were washed away, together with a portion of the city. The erosion was so rapid that new embankments could not be made and the water spread over the district south of the Sohan Canal. Working expenses were high on account of this damage, and the year's working resulted in a loss of Rs. 74,725.

Upper Chenab Canal.

151. Owing to excessive rain and an outbreak of malaria, labour could not be procured till the end of November. An extraordinary flood in February 1909 caused damage to the extent of Rs. 25,000. The total outlay on the canal during the year was over $49\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs.

Upper Jhelum Canal.

152. After protracted discussion of the merits of various designs most likely to meet the requirements of the torrents, the discharges of which were found greatly to exceed the project provision, a good start has been made on the works; the outlay during the year was nearly 36 lakhs.

Lower Bari Doab Canal.

153. The site for the proposed Ravi syphon was decided on in December 1908, and the buildings at the site and the railway line from Chánga Mánga were pushed forward very vigorously in order to protect the site before the arrival of floods. The expenditure amounted to 15 lakhs.

Minor Irrigation works.

154. The *Shahpur* (*Imperial*) *Canals* earned 15·15 per cent., and the area irrigated was the largest since 1903-04. The *Ghaggar Inundation Canals* had an unprofitable year, as the river ran dry in September 1908. The *Chenab Inundation Canals* worked well, earning nearly a lakh. The area irrigated by the *Muzaffargarh Inundation Canals* shows an improvement on the two previous triennia. The *Shahpur* (*Provincial*) *Canals* and the *Ravi Inundation Canals* enjoyed a prosperous year, but the *Rangoi Canal* ran for only 35 days.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

[Detailed information on the subjects dealt with in this chapter will be found in the owing publications :—

(*a*)—Departmental Reports.

Land Revenue.—Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Punjab for the cultural year ending 30th September 1908.

Canal Revenue.—Revenue Report of the Irrigation Department, Punjab, for the triennial iod 1905-06 to 1907-08.

Excise and Opium.—Report on the Excise Administration of the Punjab for the year 08-09.

Salt.—Report on the Administration of the Northern India Salt Revenue Department the official year 1908-09.

Stamps.—Note on the Stamp statements of the Punjab for the year 1908-09.

Income Tax.—Report on the Income Tax Administration of the Punjab during the year 08-09.

Forests.—Punjab Forest Administration Report for 1908-09.

Local Funds.—District Report on the Administration and Accounts of the District Boards in e Punjab for the year 1908 09.

Municipal Revenues.—Report on the working of Municipalities in the Punjab during the ar 1908 09.

(*b*)—Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue.

36. Gross Revenue and Expenditure.

155. In the following statements for the year ending March 31st, 09, the income and expenditure of the Railways, Post Office and Telegraph epartments, Military expenditure and capital expenditure on Canals are nitted. **General.**

156. The revenue raised in the Province during 1908-09 is made up follows, last year's figures being quoted for comparison :— **Revenue.**

Sources of revenue.	1907-08.	1908-09.
	Lakhs of rupees.	
nd Revenue	2,27·88	2,20·74
gation (including land revenue due to canals)	2,19·71	2,30·06
t	33·88	35·09
mps	42·79	46·81
ise	42·15	47·60
ome Tax	13·70	14·16
est	14·57	12·89
istration	2·77	3·14
ntes	2·76	2·84
rest	3·33	3·24
and Justice—Courts	3·35	4·02
s	1·83	2·00
ce	5·56	5·78
cation	2·95	3·03
l Works	3·51	6·31
other items	8·17	13·98
Total receipts ...	6,28·91	6,51·69

Note.—Transactions of incorporated local funds omitted in consequence of their exclusion from public unts.

Expenditure.

157. The expenditure excluding expenditure of the Military, Railways, Post Office and Telegraph Departments, Local Fund expenditure and capital expenditure on Canals, amounted to Rs. 41,270 lakhs in 1908-09. The detailed items, with corresponding figures for the previous year, are given below:—

Departments.	1907-08.	1908-09.
	Lakhs of rupees.	
Irrigation	82·34	84·23
Public Works	64·46	57·03
Revenue	48·11	49·48
Police	52·34	55·03
Law and Justice	37·24	37·47
Jails	10·32	12·30
Medical	13·39	14·04
Education	17·77	22·24
General Administration	13.40	13·54
Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	15·59	16·07
Forests	11·77	8·52
Political...	6·42	6·32
Stationery and Printing	6·65	6·73
Scientific and other Minor Departments	4·59	6·07
Salt	4·09	4·23
All other items	17·24	19·41
TOTAL ...	*4,05·72	4,12·70

*Local transactions included last year, but now omitted to allow of a comparison with the figures of the year under report.

Abstract of income and expenditure.

158. The following is an abstract of the gross income and expenditure for 1908-09 as recorded in the books of the Accountant-General, Punjab:—

	Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	Lakhs of rupees.					
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
Revenue and expenditure ...	1,66·72	3,22·89	4,89·61	23·26	3,39·26	3,62·52
Debt and remittance heads ...	...	...	33,96·84	...	...	35,85·23
Total ...	1,66·72	3,22·89	38,86·45	23·26	3,39·26	39,47·75
Opening balance ...	...	...	1,46·62	Closing	balance	85·32
GRAND TOTAL ...	...	...	40,33·07	...	...	40,33·07

37. Land Revenue.

159. The land revenue collections for the agricultural year ending 30th September 1908 have been reviewed in chapter II. Including collections on account of previous years, they amounted to Rs. 1,66,11,439 fixed, Rs. 39,52,213 fluctuating and Rs. 11,22,785 miscellaneous land revenue—total Rs. 2,16,86,437.

38. Irrigation.

160. The total capital invested up to the end of 1908-09 on Major Works amounted to 1,128 lakhs of rupees, of which 4 lakhs were invested during the current year. The income from all sources was 211 lakhs which, after deducting working expenses and interest charges, gives a net profit of 101·5 lakhs compared with 94·2 lakhs in the previous year. The net profit on unproductive Minor Works dropped from 6 to 3½ lakhs. The favourable rainfall during the monsoon enabled cultivators to make extensive sowings on unirrigated tracts for the autumn crops. The agricultural prostration due to malaria and the saturation of the soil were factors tending to prevent the usual demand for canal water from October to December for rabi sowings; but when the winter drought was established there was a rush for water to mature irrigated crops, and no water to spare for others.

39. Opium and Excise Revenue.

161. The income of the province from excise rose remarkably. It is now 47½ lakhs or nearly one-quarter of the fixed land revenue demand. In fact it has nearly doubled in 7 years.

The increase in the excise revenue was not due to a general increase in sales. The only exciseable articles of which a larger quantity was retailed than in 1907-08 were imported spirits and opium. Retail sales of distillery-made country spirit, *charas* and *bhang*, decreased by 15·14 and 6 per cent., respectively. The increase in the excise revenue occurs almost entirely under the head of vend license fees. The income from this source rose from 19½ to over 23½ lakhs. This was due to highly speculative bidding, regarding the suppression of which orders were issued subsequently.

The expenditure of the year increased from Rs. 1,06,286 to Rs. 1,17,009,—a rise of 10·1 per cent.

Excise on liquor yielded 32½ lakhs against 28¾ lakhs in 1907-08, vend fees accounting for Rs. 2,30,114 of the difference. This increase was realised notwithstanding that the number of shops for retail vend was reduced by 32. There is now in the Punjab one retail shop for 21,850 persons as compared with one for 21,126 in 1907-08. The fall in the consumption of country spirits is probably due to a combination of causes. The ban on Hindu marriages, the dearness of food-grains which reduced the purchasing power of the non-agricultural population, malaria possibly, the abatement of plague for which alcohol is a popular remedy, and, lastly, the increase in illicit distillation—all these causes may with reason be adduced to account for the statistical falling off in consumption. The experiment of selling liquor cheap on fixed fee licenses in selected districts with a view to combating illicit distillation has not had very encouraging results, and is to expire on 31st March 1910.

Excise revenue in respect of opium and its preparations rose from Rs. 7,73,806 in 1907-08 to Rs. 8,88,773. The number of licensed shops has decreased from 981 to 958, a large proportion (18) of this decrease being in Multán district. The increased revenue was due to higher prices paid for licenses. The cultivation of poppy for opium has now been prohibited throughout the British Punjab, and the darbars of Native States in the Punjab plains are being moved to put a stop to the production of opium. This stoppage of poppy cultivation has fortunately synchronized with a notable enhancement in the profits of wheat cultivation. Wheat is in many cases

considered the more paying crop. The import of Malwa opium was completely stopped during the year, and there seems to be no doubt that excise opium is making its way into the favour of the people. Afghan opium is still considered a superior article, and the high prices of this and Hill States opium have helped to increase the [consumption of excise opium. The total amount of opium consumed in the Province does not show any considerable variation from last year's figures.

Taxes on hemp drugs yielded Rs. 6,17,044, or Rs. 62,884 more than in 1907-08. The number of shops for their sale decreased from 708 to 684 and recorded consumption fell very considerably. Of *charas* 4,256 seers less and of *bhang* 4,658 seers less were sold than in 1907-08,—a decrease, taking both together, of nearly 8 per cent. As in the cases of liquor and opium, vend licenses for the sale of hemp drugs yielded an increased revenue.

Illicit distillation.

162. Among the Jats of the Central Punjab defiance of the excise law is so widespread that it is now necessary to enforce upon village headmen and zaildars their responsibility for permitting illicit distillation in their villages, and to confront the offenders with penalties of a really deterrent character. The penal clauses of the Excise law will come under review in connection with the new Excise Bill, the draft of which is awaited by the Local Government.

40. Salt Revenue.

163. The gross revenue of the Northern India Salt Revenue Department was 113½ lakhs, or over 1 lakh more than in 1907-08. No change was made in the prices at which salt manufactured on behalf of Government was sold to the public during the year. Consumers continue to reap the full benefit of the reduction in duty.

The sales during the year in the Cis-Indus and Kálabágh Mines Division, 3,202,456 maunds, exceeded last year's sales by 4 per cent. They have increased by 33 per cent. in the last 8 years. The sales at the Khewra depôt were 85·53 per cent. of the total sales of the whole division, as compared with 84·64 per cent. in 1907-08. The sales and issues are the highest on record.

Owing to rumours of a further reduction in, or the total abolition of, the duty, sales were dull till the end of October 1908, but later the demand was brisk. Great difficulty was experienced in procuring labour from September to November owing to sickness.

Sales of salt from the mines in Mandi State declined slightly, and there is a continued decrease in demand for Sultánpur manufactured salt, the sales of which fell off about 15 per cent.

41. Stamp Revenue.

164. The present is not a year of a triennial report. The annual statements, however, show a rise of nearly 4 lakhs in the net receipts: this is divided in the proportion of two to one between the Court Fees Act and the Stamp Act. The former is generally attributed to a continuance of the increased litigation which commenced in 1907 after the expiry of the period of extension granted by the Punjab Loans Limitation Act of 1904: the latter is ascribed to the execution of a larger number of deeds and bonds owing to scarcity conditions.

42. Assessed Taxes.

165. This is not a triennial report year for Assessed Taxes. The total net collections were over 14 lakhs compared with 13½ lakhs in the previous year. The number of assessees rose by 4 per cent.; and the incidence per head is now nearly Rs. 58. Two-thirds of the net collections were from incomes over Rs. 2,000.

The Income Tax Manual was almost ready for issue at the end of the year.

43. Forest Revenue.

[Forest revenue and expenditure have already been noticed in Chapter IV.]

44. Provincial Revenue.

166. The income and expenditure under the Provincial section of accounts during the past year have been as follows :—

Year.	Opening balance.	Income.	Expenditure.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1906-07	60,67,740	3,11,94,277	3,18,55,491	54,06,526
1907-08	54,06,526	3,09,21,496	3,33,30,314	29,97,708
1908-09	*30,51,002	3,23,02,485	3,38,79,467	14,74,020

*This includes Rs. 53,294 on account of the closing balance of the 'Copying Agency Fund' on 31st March 1908, provincialised during 1908-09.

The closing balance of the year 1908-09 included 13½ lakhs out of the 30 lakhs contributed from Imperial revenues for the extension and improvement of Simla. The noticeable features in the accounts of the year 1908-09 are (1) the grant, in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the assumption of the government of India by the Crown, of a special bonus equal to a week's pay to all Government servants in permanent employ drawing Rs. 50 or less in January 1909, and (2) the grant of grain compensation to whole-time servants on a pay of Rs. 30 per mensem and less, instead of on Rs. 16 per mensem and under as formerly.

The revenue classed as Provincial consists of a share of the receipts of the general revenues, the principal heads of which have been discussed above. Provincial rates on land include the local rate levied under the District Boards Act, 1883, which is noticed in the following section.

45. Local Funds.

Balance.

167. The closing balances on the 31st March 1909 were Rs. 16,95,000 against Rs. 22,63,000 in the previous year. Balances fell below the prescribed minimum in the case of Amritsar, Siálkot, Attock and Jullundur. Five districts have balances each exceeding 1⅓ lakhs. The Gurgaon district board was the only board in debt to Government at the close of the year.

Income and expenditure.

168. Under the head *Contributions* expenditure rose from Rs. 1,48,000 to Rs. 6,69,000, an increase of Rs. 5,21,000 as against an increase of Rs. 2,85,000 on the reverse side of the account. This is attributed to all contributions to Government being shown directly as expenditure, instead of being partially deducted from the various grants as was formerly the case.

Income also increased under *Provincial Rates, School Fees, Education, Medical* and *Police.*

There were increases of expenditure on *Education* (chiefly on primary schools), *Hospitals and Dispensaries,* and on *Scientific and other Minor Departments* (mainly owing to an increase in bull and stallion charges.)

Receipts under the head of *Civil Works* fell from Rs. 5,18,000 to Rs. 4,64,000, mainly due to the decrease in the sale of buildings and other property; expenditure fell from Rs. 22,85,000 to Rs. 21,45,000, a decrease of Rs. 1,40,000 principally on account of want of funds.

46. Municipal Funds.

Balances.

169. The balance of all the municipalities at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 14,49,883 in cash and Rs. 1,17,600 in investments.

Income.

170. The aggregate income of the municipalities of the province was Rs. 57,07,000, the smallest figure since 1905-06. Octroi accounted mainly for the decrease, and the explanation has already been given in dealing with that tax in .section 25. Other taxation brought in Rs. 4,57,000 of the total, a considerably larger sum than ever before. The re-assessment of properties in Simla and Delhi for the house-tax along with better supervision over collections is the main reason of this increase.

The revenue derived from municipal property, from medical institutions, slaughter-houses and license fees have all considerably increased, which is specially satisfactory considering the stagnation shown by the octroi returns.

Expenditure

171. *Municipal expenditure* has reached a higher limit than at any time since 1902. Public safety, drainage and conservancy, medical relief and public buildings all have contributed to swell the total.

The aggregate cost of municipal administration and collection of taxes has been less than at any time since 1905-06, but the causes are mostly of a local or temporary character, and the decrease will possibly not be maintained for long.

Public Safety has involved a greatly increased expenditure, mainly owing to the construction of new police stations at Simla and Lyallpur. Expenditure on *Drainage and Conservancy* has been swelled by the inclusion of two lakhs on account of the cost of the Ludhiána water-works.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

[Detailed information on the subjects dealt with in this chapter will be found in the reports and statistical tables noted below :—

PROVINCIAL REPORTS.

Agriculture.—(1) Report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture, Punjab, for the year ending June 30th, 1909.

(2) Annual Report of the Lyallpur Agricultural Station for the autumn and spring harvests, 1908-09.

(3) Annual Report of the Punjab Veterinary College and of the Civil Veterinary Department, Punjab, for the year 1908-09.

(4) Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Punjab for the agricultural year ending 30th September 1908.

(5) Report on the working of Co-operative Credit Societies for the year ending 31st March 1909.

Weather and Crops.—(1) Report on the weather of the Punjab for the year 1908-09.

(2) Punjab Season and Crops Report for 1908-09.

Horticulture.—Report on the Government Agri-Horticultural Gardens, Lahore, for the year ending 31st March 1909.

Forests.—Progress Report on Forest Administration in the Punjab for 1908-09.

Arboriculture.—Progress Report on Arboriculture in the Punjab for the triennial period 1905-06 to 1907-08.

Mines and Quarries.—(1) Reports on the working of the Dandot Colliery for the half-years ending 30th June 1908 and, 31st December 1908.

(2) Statement showing the production of minerals and gems for the calendar year 1908.

Manufactures.—(1) Report on the working of the Factories Act in the Punjab during the year 1908.

(2) Monograph on the Wire and Tinsel Industry in the Punjab, 1908.

Trade.—(1) Report on the Internal Trade of the Punjab by rail and river for the year ending March 31st, 1909.

(2) Report on the External Land Trade of the Punjab for the year 1908-09.

(3) Report on the Joint Stock Companies in the Punjab for the year 1908-09.

Public Works.—Administration Report of the Public Works Department, Punjab, Buildings and Roads Branch, for the year 1908-09.

Irrigation.—Administration Report of the Public Works Department, Punjab, Irrigation Branch, for the year 1908-09.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Agriculture.—As to *prices* see Prices and Wages in India.

Crops.—Agricultural Statistics of India, volume I, tables 2-I and 3-I.

Mines and Quarries.—
(1) Statistics of British India, Part I.
(2) Records of the Geological Survey of India, volume XXXVII.
(3) Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India under the Indian Mines Act (VIII of 1901) for the year ending 31st December 1908.

Manufactures.—Statistics of British India, Part I.

Railways.—Administration Report on Railways in India for the calendar year 1908.

Trade.—Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India.]

27. Agriculture.

Agricultural Department.

82. Lyallpur Agricultural College was not opened during the y as some of the buildings were still unfinished. Its foundation has created c siderable interest, and 574 applications for admission have already been rece ed. Of these a fair proportion has come from landowners and others wh main object is to acquire a scientific knowledge of agriculture. For the f year, however, the number of admissions will be restricted to 16, as the teachi staff has not yet been fully recruited and trained in its duties.

It is satisfactory to learn that, owing to a revolution in milli machinery, some of our hard red varieties of wheat are now much more soug after than soft white wheat by many up-to-date millers, for the soft wh wheats do not really suit the province, and were grown chiefly to meet t foreign demand. Punjab wheat at present suffers from being exported w a substantial addition of foreign grains and dust, which could be removed means of elevators. The result of the inquiries of the Imperial committee elevators is awaited, as the subject is one of the greatest importance the colonies where the conditions are similar to those in Canada and United States.

Experimental work at Lyallpur.

83. At Lyallpur Agricultural Station considerable advance has b made in the work of selecting a cotton properly suited to the provin interesting experiments have been made in the cultivation of jute, the trial chrome leather for well buckets, the use of castor cake for manure and sugar-making with Mr. Hadi's plant, but definite results in these matters ha not yet been attained, though it would seem fairly clear that the Hadi proc is not suited to the Punjab. Bee-keeping and poultry-farming have al received a considerable share of attention during the year. Another expe ment of considerable interest is the attempt to revive sericulture in th Punjab. The attempt has attained a very fair measure of success, and i Gurdáspur private enterprise has stepped in to revive this moribund in dustry.

Agricultural machinery is growing in popularity, as is proved the fact that a commercial firm have considered it worth their while relieve the department of the work of distribution in the case of reapers an some other implements. A bulletin is issued giving the price, source of supp and special advantages of each implement tested and approved by th department.

Agricultural operations in the districts.

84. In Jhelum colony American cotton did well as regards both outtur and price. The distribution in districts of seed of selected indigenous cotto has led to the conclusion that the cotton-growers in these districts, except Hissar, already do all that is reasonably possible for non-scientific men in th matter of the selection of seed.

Punjab Veterinary College.

85. The demand for the services of Veterinary Assistants during the ye has been considerable. It will be some years before the supply can possib equal the demand. This fact, combined with the very large number requests for admission, makes a strong case for the founding of anoth Veterinary College in Upper India. Another aspect of the case is that, unde present circumstances, after providing for military students and scholars deputed from other provinces, there are an unduly small number of vacancies left for Punjabis.

In an attempt to cope with the demand for trained men, unmanageably large classes were admitted in 1906 and 1907, and the results of the annual examination still show a somewhat low percentage of total passes in consequence.

The Quarterly Indian Veterinary Journal in Urdu has been revived.

Chemical Examiner.

180. The number of cases and articles submitted for analysis shows a considerable increase as compared with the previous year, the numbers being 1,475 and 3,966, respectively, as against 1,334 and 3,668 : but the increase compared with the year 1906 is not great. The ratio of detection has risen in practically every class of case, being 72·86 in human poisoning cases, 80·58 in cattle poisoning cases, and 91·04 in cases of murder, etc., with violence. In spite of the introduction of rules under the Poisons Act in 1907, there is no falling off in the use of arsenic as a poison. Out of 323 cases of cattle poisoning, arsenic was the poison used in no less than 306. In human poisoning, arsenic was used in 411 cases out of a total of 647. Attention is being devoted to the improvement of judicial mortuaries and the safe custody of articles pending despatch to the Chemical Examiner from outstations.

51. Sanitation.

General.

181. The sum of one lakh of rupees was placed at the disposal of the Sanitary Board for distribution to municipalities during the financial year of 1908-09. Allotments of some Rs. 69,000 were actually made during 1908, and during the year power was delegated to the Sanitary Board to allot with the approval of Government grants up to a total of Rs. 50,000 per annum to district boards.

The very heavy rains at the end of August and the early part of September showed up defects in the drainages surrounding many towns in the province. At Amritsar the sub-soil water rose up to ground surface and there was much sickness in the town and surrounding villages. Fázilka, in the Ferozepore District, suffered perhaps more than any other place in the province. There the surface drainage combined with spill water from the canals was concentrated on the town and flooded it out. Many houses fell down, and of those that remained standing there were very few that did not suffer from the effects.

Sanitary Works.

182. At Delhi the intramural drainage works under construction by the Public Works Department were completed and handed over to the Municipal Committee for maintenance during the year under report. The work of the suburban drainage project (estimated cost Rs. 3,79,000) has been put in hand, and is being carried out by the Municipal Engineer. The Ludhiána water-works were completed and handed over to the Municipal Committee for maintenance during the year. The hydro-electric scheme for Simla has been approved by the Government of India.

Private enterprise.

183. Works of public utility costing in all Rs. 87,000 were constructed by private individuals at their own expense to serve sanitary purposes.

Rewards.

184 Rewards offered by District Boards for improved village sanitation were few, partly from lack of interest on the part of village communities. In the Chenab Colony 25 villages received rewards of Rs. 1,000 each, and a sum of Rs. 740 was expended in *sanads* and *khillats* to lambardars and abadkars.

52. Vaccination.

Total operations.

185. The total number of persons vaccinated during the year was 668,898 There was a decrease in the total number of primary vaccinations, but a slight increase of 20,583 in re-vaccinations. In the total number of operations there was a decrease of 38,785. The decrease is manifestly due to the havoc caused by the epidemic of malaria and its consequent ill effect on the infantile population. The fact that there was a decrease of 10·43 per cent. in the total

number of children available for vaccination, and an increase of 4·76 per cent. this year in the ratio of successful primary operations to total number of children available may be regarded as an indication of the vaccination staff having worked fairly satisfactorily.

Percentage of success.

186. Excluding operations, the results of which are unknown, the total primary vaccinations performed by the district staff gave a percentage of success amounting to 98·49. The amount of success in re-vaccinations was 77·79.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

[For detailed information see the Punjab Education Report for 1908-09 and Statistics of British India, Part VII—Educational.]

53. General System of Public Instruction.

(See paragraphs 616-635 of the report of 1901-02.)

Public instruction.

54. Education.

General statistics.

187. Expenditure on education has decreased by nearly a lakh of rupees, 55½ lakhs being the gross total for the year under report. "Direct" expenditure, *i.e.*, on tuition, shows an increase of Rs. 2,47,509 in the case of public institutions, of which Primary Schools account for Rs. 1,22,695, Secondary Schools for Rs. 59,478, Colleges for Rs. 34,006, and Special Schools for Rs. 31,411. "Indirect" expenditure, which comprises charges for direction, inspection, building, furniture, scholarships, etc., decreased by Rs. 3,24,438, of which 1½ lakhs were on account of retrenchment of expenditure on European school buildings.

The number of public institutions in existence during 1908-09 was 4,404, with 253,784 pupils, and the number of private institutions was 2,699, with 48,792 pupils. In the former 2,491 attended Arts or Professional Colleges, 75,489 attended Secondary and 172,214 Primary Schools. Training and Special Schools accounted for 3,590 students. Of the private institutions, the advanced schools were attended by 3,795 and the elementary by 44,997 pupils. The figures show that 21·63 per cent. of all towns and villages are provided with schools, and that 16·18 per cent. of the male and 2·62 per cent. of the female population of the school-going age are receiving instruction.

The increase in the number of public institutions has, as hitherto, been largest in the case of Primary Schools, but this year's figure, 79, is the lowest on record since 1904-05. The increase in the number of scholars in Colleges and Secondary Schools is, however, greater this year than that in Primary Schools, being almost double last year's figure. But the increase in Primary Schools still indicates a fair rate of progress, if an inevitable decrease in attendance, due to the prevalence of malaria, is allowed for.

General progress.

188. Among the measures of the year may be enumerated the abolition of "Circles" of inspection as distinct from divisions, and a consequent redistribution of inspecting officers' duties; the delegation of certain powers of appointment, etc., to Inspectors; the issue of a revised edition of the chapters in the Education Code relating to grants, teachers' examinations, etc.; a new contract for the publication of text-books, securing more favourable terms; changes in the scheme of studies for Normal Schools; the institution of Head Masters' Associations at important centres; the adoption of a scheme by which teachers from Government schools will be entitled to draw a fair proportion of their pay while under training; and the limitation of stipends in the B. T. class to teachers of at least one year's experience. Other educational changes include the starting of the Victoria May and Convent Schools for Indian girls at Lahore, and the experimental training class for village teachers at Kalanaur. The various improvements which are being carried out in college buildings throughout the province are particularly noteworthy.

Primary education.

189. The number of schools rose from 3,343 to 3,408, an increase of 65 as compared with 192 last year. There was a decrease of 18 in unaided schools: of the 86 new schools, 76 were board and 10 aided. The fall in unaided schools, and the slackening of the rate of progress generally, are attributed by Inspectors chiefly to the prevalence of malaria. It would appear that the large recurring grants, aggregating Rs. 4,20,000, which were sanctioned in 1905 from Imperial and provincial funds, are now found only sufficient to finance the new schools opened during the period which has since elapsed, in addition to enhancing teachers' salaries.

The number of pupils rose from 146,290 to 149,806, an increase of 3,516 as compared with 4,731 last year: the increase took place chiefly in the Multán, Lahore and Jullundur divisions. Agriculturists' sons attending schools have considerably increased, except in the Delhi and Ráwalpindi divisions.

The class for Zamindari School teachers in the Training College has been abolished, and Zamindari Schools are no longer recognised by the Code. Board Zamindari Schools have been converted into Rural Schools. The new Rural Schools have not as yet become generally popular. The curriculum of a school of the rural type is in some respects superior to that of the so-called town Primary School, but the existence of two types of school in rural tracts is generally admitted to be unnecessary. Steps are being taken to draw up a revised course which can be adopted in all schools, with modifications to suit the needs of the locality. There was a falling-off of 37 indigenous and other schools examined for grants, and a general decrease in the attendance and the grants earned, except in the Multán division, where Rs. 1,852 more were earned. This result is attributed to malaria and scarcity.

Secondary education.

190. There has virtually been no change in the number of Secondary Schools, but the attendance has risen by 4,382. Vernacular Middle Schools show an increase of 1,284 against 424 of last year. The demand for the teaching of English continues to grow, the increase in the number of pupils learning English having doubled its former rate. The total expenditure rose from 13½ to 14½ lakhs of rupees. Fees contributed over six lakhs, which is about 42 per cent. of the expenditure.

No change of any importance was made in the scheme of studies, but a revised scheme has been prepared and is under consideration. A revised scale of teachers' salaries as recommended by the last Educational Conference was drawn up for the guidance of local bodies.

The Punjab University.

191. The twenty-eighth Convocation was held on the 22nd December 1908, when the Vice-Chancellor, Sir P. C. Chatterjee, delivered the address. Degrees were conferred on 172 candidates, more by 23 than in 1907. The expenditure rose by Rs. 6,881 to Rs. 1,86,643, and the receipts by Rs. 9,864 to Rs. 2,02,521, fees having increased by about Rs. 13,316. The financial position appears to be sound. Regulations for the elections of Fellows by registered graduates were introduced during the year. History and Economics were made separate subjects in the degree examinations, and examinations for a degree in Honours were held for the first time. Important changes were also made in the Regulations with a view to the re-organisation of the Oriental College. The number of students who obtained degrees in the various Faculties was 172.

Arts Colleges.

192. Arts Colleges in British Territory (including the Oriental College) number 10, as last year. The number of students has risen from 1,725 to 1,860. The number of candidates appearing in the several examinations was 1,471 with 784 passes, as compared with 1,242 candidates and 547 passes in 1907-08. The percentage of passes in the Intermediate, B. A. and M. A. Examinations were 61, 42 and 44, respectively, and in the Science Faculty in the Intermediate, B. Sc. and M. Sc. Examinations they were 45, 20 and 87, respectively. The percentage of passes in the *new* examinations for degrees in Honours was also satisfactory, that for the First B. A. being 43 and for the First B. Sc. 75.

The total expenditure on Arts Colleges rose by Rs. 24,704 to Rs. 3,12,848, of which fees contributed Rs. 1,02,243, or Rs. 11,017 more than last year; provincial revenues Rs. 1,19,230, or Rs. 11,133 more; subscriptions Rs. 31,100, or Rs. 17,476 more; and endowments Rs. 57,791, or 14,571 less.

193. There was no change in the number of training institutions. There has been a very slight decrease in the number attending. The Central Training College and the Normal Schools experienced some difficulty in allotting the full number of stipends as sufficient candidates were not forthcoming. A scheme has been introduced by which selected teachers from Government Schools as well as those from Board Schools will receive their full salaries while in the Training College, or three-quarters if the salary exceeds Rs. 40. The supply of trained teachers is still below the demand. The training classes for Europeans at Simla and Sanáwar had their full number of stipendiaries, and are reported to be doing excellent work. **Training Colleges.**

194. The number of students in the Law College, Lahore, has risen, but the results of examinations are still unsatisfactory. The Mayo School of Art and the Government School of Engineering also show a slight decrease in numbers. The latter institution will shortly be handed over to the Public Works Department. **Special Schools.**

195. The total number of schools has increased from 607 to 625, and of scholars from 23,588 to 24,916. The expenditure fell from Rs. 3,78,086 to Rs. 3,77,392. The large increase of Secondary Schools is a satisfactory feature, 26 being now in existence against 21 last year, but the shortness of the supply of teachers still remains an obstacle. **Female education.**

196. The number of public and private schools was unchanged, but the pupils rose from 2,285 to 2,296. The expenditure on these schools from provincial revenues fell by 1½ lakhs, owing to a retrenchment of expenditure on buildings. **European education.**

197. There were 305 boarding-houses for school and college students, with 13,527 inmates, as compared with 288 and 12,769 in the previous year. Boarding-houses for girls are the same in number (31), but the number of inmates rose from 1,567 to 1,818. **Boarding-houses.**

55. Literature and the Press.

198. The total number of publications received for registration has again fallen, the number in 1908 being 1,185 as against 1,204 in 1907. **Literature.**

Of those registered, 497 were in Urdu, 342 in Punjabi, 125 bilingual and 84 in English, while poetry and religion are the dominating themes.

The number of books, of which the copy-right was registered is 240, or 59 more than in the previous year.

Religion as usual claims the highest number of books, *viz.*, 293, to which may be added a considerable number of poetical works which are mainly religious. As a sign of the times it may be remarked that religious works, which are in classical language and unintelligible to the majority of readers, are being translated into the vernaculars of the Punjab. The new critical spirit in religion is expressed in several works which try to explain religious doctrines in the light of reason and science.

The volume of verse published every year in Punjabi and Urdu is immense, in the year under report the number reaching the high figure of 292. Most of the poems deal with the loves and adventures of popular heroes. Very few of these books show any real poetical sentiment or beauty of diction. Exceptions however are Ufaq's Guru Gobind Singh, which describes scenes in the life of the Guru, and the "Tuzuk-i-Qaisari," a historical poem of some length, which takes a bird's-eye view of the chief incidents of Indian history, and ends with an enumeration of the blessings of British rule.

Biographies of political or religious leaders are coming into vogue. In this connection may be mentioned the Urdu translation of Dr. Simes' "Life of Queen Victoria".

Strictly political works are few, but in nearly every branch of literature there will be found works with a political tinge.

One of the most satisfactory features is that translations of good English novels are being undertaken, and that taste is improving in this respect.

Newspapers.

199. There were 252 newspapers published during the year. Of these 38 were published in English, 1 in English, Persian and Urdu, 182 in Urdu, 1 in Urdu and Hindi, 11 in Hindi, 1 in Urdu and Gurmukhi, and 18 in Gurmukhi. Three English and 51 Vernacular newspapers were started, and 6 English and 47 Vernacular newspapers ceased to exist during the year, leaving a total of 199 on the register. One paper was published half-yearly, 4 quarterly, 124 monthly, 30 twice a month, 3 thrice a month, 78 weekly, 3 twice a week, and 1 thrice a week. There were 8 daily papers.

Press prosecutions and warnings.

200. Proceedings under section 3 of the Newspapers (Incitement to Offences) Act, 1908, were instituted against the "*Inquilab*" newspaper of Lahore, in respect of an article entitled "Swaraj, Boycott, and National Education" in its issue of 10th October 1908. The "Qaumi Press," at which the paper was printed, was confiscated in December 1908, the order being subsequently made absolute.

Several papers were warned for failing to comply with the provisions of section 3, Act 25 of 1867.

The *Arya Gazette*, which had disregarded a previous warning, was prosecuted under section 12 of the same Act, and fined.

56. Literary Societies.

[See report for 1901-02. The subject will not be dealt with again till 1911-12.]

57. Arts and Sciences.

Lahore Museum.

201. The total number of visitors dropped from 276,941 to 152,617. It is evident from the daily returns that the severe sickness during the autumn of 1908 contributed chiefly to this decrease.

The Raw Product Section was re-arranged and opened to the public during the year, and the Art and Industry Section benefited by the receipt of old China ware and enamel work from the Delhi Museum.

Art sale room.

202. The sales effected during the year amount to Rs. 587-11-0, being Rs. 1,111-11-0 less than during the previous year. The principal reason for the falling-off in sales is that this room was not properly stocked during the previous two years.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

[Detailed information on the subject of this chapter will be found in the following publications:—Administration Report of the Public Works Department, Punjab, Buildings and Roads Branch, for 1908-09; Annual Progress Report of the Superintendent of the Archæological Survey, Northern Circle, for the year ending 31st March 1909.]

58. Archæology.

203. The most important works carried out in the Punjab during the year 1908-09 were the repairs to the ancient stone temples at Baijnáth, Kángra district, which were damaged by the earthquake of 1905.

204. The Bhuri Singh Museum, Chamba State, was opened on the 24th September 1908. It contains Indian pictures, portraits, wood carving, stone and copper-plate inscriptions. One of the latter, belonging to the first year of Asata, 1080 A.D., possesses some historical interest.

205. The Delhi Museum of Archæology was opened to the public in January 1909. One hundred and ninety-one Gandhara sculptures, from the collection of Lord William Beresford, were transferred to Lahore Museum during the year. A complete list of ancient monuments in the Northern Circle is under preparation.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

59. Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

[See page 189 of the report for the year 1901-02. The Bishop also exercises ecclesiastical jurisdiction in the Persian Gulf.]

60 Ecclesiastical.

206 The various ecclesiastical institutions were noticed in the report the year 1901-02. During the year under review the Government of India decided that no new Government churches in military stations should be consecrated, and that in future Local Governments should not give permission to the consecration of any church without previous reference to the Supreme Government, as when permission is given to consecrate a church at any station, whether civil or military, the question has to be considered with reference not only to the existing garrison, if any, but to any redistribution of troops likely to be made in future. Moreover, since expenditure under the head Ecclesiastical is Imperial, the grant of permission to consecrate a church may involve the Government of India in additional expenditure by way of assistance to churches other than the Church of England for the provision of separate church accommodation.

A proposal to extend the cemetery at Ludhiána at an estimated cost of Rs. 3,075 was sanctioned by the Local Government.

61. Stationery.

207. The Punjab Administration draws its supply of stationery from the Calcutta Stores. The value of stationery issued to officers in the Punjab during the year aggregated Rs. 2,38,906 as against Rs. 2,40,742 in the previous year—cost of printing paper Rs. 1,08,897, office stationery Rs. 1,28,208, and padlocks Rs. 1,801 against Rs. 1,07,118, Rs. 1,32,475 and Rs. 1,149, respectively last year.

62. Punjab Government Press.

208. The following statement compares the income and expenditure with the value of work turned out during the years 1907-08 and 1908-09 :—

Income.		Expenditure.		Value of work.	
1907-08.	1908-09.	1907-08.	1908-09.	1907-08.	1908-09.
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.
19,988	19,326	1,46,358	1,62,877	1,37,998	1,51,236

The income of the Press during the year under report was Rs. 19,326 as against Rs. 19,988 in the previous year. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,62,877 against Rs. 1,46,358 in 1907-08. The cost of work done by the Contractors for Government Printing for departments and offices during 1908-09 was Rs. 56,172 against Rs. 74,145.